National Charter of the United States

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PREAMBLE

In 1776, the Founders of this nation said emphatically that all are equal, they are endowed with unalienable Rights, and that it is to secure those Rights that Governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed.

They also declared, in defiance of their Government, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of those ends, the People have the Sovereign Right to alter or to abolish it, instituting a new Government to better meet their needs.

Today, we, the Citizens of the United States of America, recognize that every person born is both unique and equal to every other. We agree that it is our Sovereign Right to form a government to secure our Rights, and that it is made legitimate solely through our Consent.

So, we declare a new government, as established in this National Charter of the United States.

ARTICLE I – THE PEOPLE

Article I, Section 1 – Sovereignty of the Citizens

Article I, Section 1.A. Sovereignty

All political power in the United States comes from the Citizens. Government only exists because the Citizens delegate power to it. They limit what it can do through this Charter. No Office, law, institution, or official is above the Citizens or the law. All government workers answer to them and can be held accountable through lawful means.

Article I, Section 1.B. Accountability and Immunity

Government officials and agents can be charged with crimes or sued—unless this Charter clearly protects them. The President, Vice President, and Members of Congress are presumed to have personal Civil Immunity for actions taken in good faith while doing their jobs. The courts can strip that immunity for behavior that willfully exceeds their authority or are intentionally designed to violate or evade the law.

No official at any level of government enjoys Criminal Immunity—not even for actions taken as part of their official duties. Elected and appointed officials do not enjoy immunity from indictment while in office, regardless of the office they hold.

Police and law enforcement officers cannot use "Qualified Immunity" as an excuse for doing things a properly trained officer would know they do not have the legal authority to do. The

Government must train officers in the Rights of the People before letting them work with the public. Not knowing the law is not an excuse.

All government acts are justiciable.

Article I, Section 1.C. Supremacy of Rights

No Right can be taken away or reduced unless this Charter clearly allows it. Any government exercise of power that weakens a protected Right is not valid.

All Rights guaranteed under this Charter apply equally at all levels of government, without exception.

No emergency can justify reduction, elimination, or suspension of Rights, even on a temporary basis.

Rights preceded the Government. Therefore, the government has no authority to take them. The government's sole reason for existence is to secure them.

Article I, Section 2 – The People and Their Rights

Article I, Section 2.A. The People

Article I, Section 2.A.1. Personhood

Only human beings are "Persons" under this Charter.

This Charter is concerned solely with legal definitions and enforceable Rights. Before birth, no individual can claim or exercise the legal Rights reserved for Persons, such as the Rights to free expression, religious exercise, or habeas corpus. Therefore, under this Charter, legal Personhood begins at birth.

The People of the United States are all the Persons in its territory and subject to its laws, as are those Persons in the sovereign territories of federally recognized Tribes. The People include both Citizens and Noncitizens alike.

Article I, Section 2.A.2. Citizenship

Citizens are the Sovereigns of the United States. Anyone born or naturalized in the U.S., and under the authority of its laws, excluding those born to foreign nationals present on tourist visas, is a Citizen of the U.S. and their home State or Territory.

Members of federally recognized Tribes are also presumed to be Citizens of the United States unless they explicitly renounce that Citizenship. They can be dual Citizens of their Tribe and of the United States.

A child born outside the United States to at least one Citizen parent is a Citizen at birth.

Article I, Section 2.A.3. Naturalization

Every free country should have a fair and clear way for people to become Citizens. Congress must establish and maintain a simple and fair process for Noncitizens to become Citizens.

Article I, Section 2.A.4. Age of Majority

A Person reaches the Age of Majority on their eighteenth (18^{th}) birthday. They are entitled to all the Duties, Rights, Privileges, Powers, and Protections afforded to adults.

Article I, Section 2.B. Rights

Article I, Section 2.B.1. Threefold Rights

Article I, Section 2.B.1(a). Categories of Rights

This Charter recognizes three categories of Rights: Natural Rights, Civil Rights, and Civic Rights.

Natural Rights are the basic freedoms that every human being has simply by being alive. No government grants these Rights, and it is illegitimate for any government to deny them.

Civil Rights are legal protections that apply to all Persons under the law. Civil Rights give force to Natural Rights and guarantee fair and equal treatment under the law. They also protect Persons from abuse of power by the government.

Civic Rights are the exclusive Rights of Citizens.

Article I, Section 2.B.1(b). Associations

Individual Persons possess Civil Rights. Individual Citizens possess Civil Rights and Civic Rights. Associations—whether corporations, unions, nonprofits, churches, Political Action Committees, or any other collective entity—possess neither of these in their own name. The individuals who make up their membership retain all Rights they hold as Persons or Citizens.

Although associations lack Civil and Civic Rights, they may still seek legal redress when harmed. U.S. civil law recognizes injury and remedy not as rights, but as procedural constructs. In doing so, the association must establish standing as if it were an individual Person. This is a legal fiction for the purpose of remedy, not a grant of Rights, nor a recognition of the association as a Person under this Charter.

Article I, Section 2.B.1(c). Quasi-Governmental Entities

Article I, Section 2.B.1(c_1). Government-Authorized Exercisers of Force

When private individuals or entities use force, detain, incarcerate, or engage in law enforcement under government authority or contract, or acting in concert with governmental or authorized actors, they are considered Government-Authorized Exercisers of Force. They are bound by the constitutional limitations on government. Examples of this category include bounty hunters, private military contractors, operators of private prisons and detention centers, private security contractors, citizen auxiliaries deputized under posse comitatus authority, deputies, and similar entities.

Article I, Section 2.B.1(c_2). Entities with Monopolistic Control Over Necessities

Entities that hold significant influence or control over goods or services required for life, bodily autonomy, or normal participation in civic life are considered Entities with Monopolistic Control Over Necessities. Significant influence or control means the entity can control or erect barriers to entry into the market, set prices or restrict supply independently of competitive forces, or control at least sixty (60) percent of the market share within the relevant market. They are bound by the constitutional limitations on government. Examples include utilities, banks, cell service providers, internet service providers, dominant manufacturers, wholesalers, or retailers with controlling market share, and similar entities.

Article I, Section 2.B.1(c_3). Employers

Employers wield unequal coercive economic power over their employees. They are therefore bound by the constitutional limitations on government regarding employees' personal behavior and autonomy. Employers retain the right to regulate on-duty conduct that legitimately reflects on the company, provided that 'on-duty' is not construed so broadly as to deny employees a personal sphere. These obligations apply to both direct and contract employment.

Article I, Section 2.B.2. Civil Rights

All Persons within the United States are guaranteed Civil Rights under this Charter. These Civil Rights give legal force to their Natural Rights. Those Rights include:

Article I, Section 2.B.2(a). Right to Life.

Every Person has the Right to life and to be free from unlawful killing. Lawful exceptions may include killing in military service, killing in self-defense, or killing in the defense of others. They also certainly include deaths occurring in the course of lawful military or civil service. Nothing in this section prevents accountability for unlawful conduct that causes death.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(b). Right to Bodily Autonomy.

Every Person controls their own body. Every Person has the Right to make personal decisions about their medical care, physical appearance, and self-identification. They are protected from abuse and can make reproductive choices.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(b_1). State-Intervention Standard.

The government may intervene in personal decisions only when a Person is experiencing a mental crisis or other intellectual condition that renders them unable to make rational, self-directed choices. The mere fact that a decision is risky or may result in self-harm is not sufficient grounds for intervention, so long as the Person is capable of informed and rational judgment. Acts of protest, including hunger strikes or similar conduct, are expressions of autonomy and may not be interfered with. A Person's decision to enter hospice care or make other permanent decisions about the course of their life shall be respected, provided they possess the capacity for rational self-determination.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(b_2). Religious or Cultural Practices.

When religious or cultural practices involve body modifications performed on others who are incapable of giving or withholding consent, such practices are only permissible when they do not cause permanent loss of physical function, capacity, or lasting trauma. Practices that permanently impair or remove bodily capacity, sexual pleasure, or autonomy are prohibited. This Charter distinguishes between cultural expression and irreversible harm.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(b_3). Minors.

Parents or legal guardians may make decisions for minors, including cultural or symbolic practices, provided those decisions do not cause permanent harm or suppress the minor's future autonomy. As minors grow, their expressed views shall be given increasing weight. By age sixteen, a minor is presumed competent to make personal decisions unless proven otherwise through a lawful process.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(c). Freedom of Movement.

Every Person has the Right to travel freely within the country and to leave it. This Right may only be restricted following arrest or lawful conviction of a crime. Temporary restriction is permissible within the terms of this subclause.

Local and federal government officials may bar movement through tightly defined areas for minimal durations to control foot or vehicle traffic around crime scenes, large events, hazardous areas, and similar sites. They may only do so when necessary to prevent likely

and imminent harm to life or bodily autonomy of the People, gather evidence for transport, or to protect the property of the People.

A tightly defined area is only as large as necessary to protect evidence and ensure the safety of victims trapped in the affected area and/or the first responders on site. It does not include buffer zones or schemes designed to create distance from or restrict visibility of the area in question. Limited duration means that the protected area is set apart only until the imminent danger, investigation, rescue, or recovery of any evidence or deceased Persons is concluded.

All such areas are subject to mandatory judicial review in the district court with jurisdiction twenty-four (24) hours after their establishment, regardless of whether the travel restriction remains in effect at that time. The court must review whether the restriction was narrowly tailored at the time it was imposed. It must make the same determination for ongoing restriction. For ongoing zones of restriction, the court must conduct supplementary reviews every twenty-four (24) hours until a final hearing after the zone of restriction has been lifted. Areas restricted for the purposes of law enforcement or other emergency response are exempt from mandatory review only if they are small enough in area that an adult could walk around the area in less than ten (10) minutes, the area does not block the sole legal means of ingress or egress to or from another contiguous area, activity in the entire area can be viewed from the perimeter of the restricted zone, and the restriction lasts fewer than four (4) hours in total. This exemption from mandatory review does not confer immunity from independent review.

Such restrictions cannot be used under any circumstances for the purpose of denying or restricting the Rights of protest or peaceful assembly.

This right shall not be construed to allow unfettered access to restricted or secure areas like prisons or military bases. It also shall not extend to a right to enter restricted airspace.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(d). Protection from Enslavement or Involuntary Servitude.

Slavery and involuntary servitude are prohibited except as punishment for a crime, and even then may not violate the Rights to Life or Bodily Autonomy or produce commercial gain. Conscription for military or civil service in preparation for, or in time of, war is not considered enslavement or involuntary servitude.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(d_1). Unavailability of Consent.

All labor performed by incarcerated persons must be understood as involuntary. The circumstances of incarceration preclude meaningful consent.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(d_2) Incarcerated Labor Compensation.

Any value generated by incarcerated labor must be placed in a secure, interest-bearing trust for the incarcerated Person, disbursed upon release or to a beneficiary upon death. If the prison includes a paid commissary, all income must be made available for use in that commissary during the Person's incarceration. The Government may not profit.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(d_3). Prohibition on Government Benefit

The Government may not profit, nor may it attempt to cover its carceral expenses from revenues generated by incarcerated Persons.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(e). Personal Security and Self-Defense.

Every Person has the Right to Personal security and lawful self-defense. This right includes, but is not limited to, the right to bear arms. Congress may make laws allowing for the suspension or regulation of this Right, but only in carefully and narrowly defined circumstances. Those circumstances cannot include religious or political beliefs. Such regulation must exist solely to protect the Natural Rights of others—particularly the Rights to Life and Bodily Autonomy—and must use the least restrictive means available, with its scope, application, and purpose clearly defined.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(f). Equality of Rights.

Everyone is equal under the law. No Person may be treated unequally under the law based on sex, race, religion, beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction not grounded in legitimate constitutional purpose. This Charter assumes laws should protect Rights, not take them away. No Right may be restricted unless the Charter authorizes the restriction.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(g). Due Process.

No Person may be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, which includes, at a minimum, notice of charges against them, a fair hearing, and a chance to

review and answer all testimony and evidence, and sufficient time to respond. It must also include the right to competent legal representation, an unbiased judge, and, if applicable, an impartial jury. Finally, all hearings must be held within a reasonable proximity to the place where the alleged unlawful activity occurred.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(h). Habeas Corpus.

Every Person has the Right to challenge their detention before a judge. Anyone held by the government must be brought before a judge within seventy-two (72) hours. The Right to a lawyer begins at the time of detention. This Right may not be suspended.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(i). No Bills of Attainder.

The Government may not enact a Bill of Attainder.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(j). No Ex Post Facto Laws.

No Person may be prosecuted or punished for an act that was not illegal at the time it was committed. Penalties or other punishments established by law may not be applied retroactively, except where the new penalty is more lenient than the one it replaces.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(k). Right to Domestic Sovereignty.

No Person shall be compelled to provide lodging, sustenance, or other domestic resources to any officer, agent, or member of the Government. Voluntary hospitality remains a protected expression of personal choice and may not be presumed, imposed, or coerced.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(l). Right to Privacy and Property.

Every Person has the right to privacy and control over their body, home, digital and physical documents, communications, data, and property. Both physical and digital searches require a judicial Warrant based on Probable Cause, explicitly describing the place, device, data category, or item to be examined or taken.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(m). Emergency Action.

The government may act without a Warrant only briefly and only to prevent serious harm to another's rights; actions must be strictly limited and promptly reviewed by a court within seventy-two (72) hours. Officials acting in good faith within Charter-consistent training are not automatically liable even if a court later finds the action unlawful.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(n). In Rem Jurisdiction.

Legal action cannot be brought against property; in rem jurisdiction is invalid.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(o). Forfeiture Restrictions and Victim Restitution.

The government cannot seize any property prior to conviction, except physical items necessary to conduct a good-faith prosecution, such as evidence including weapons, documents, or contaminated clothing. Seizure of any other assets may occur only after conviction and must be accompanied by a separate judicial hearing for each asset to establish a direct connection to the offense.

Property belonging to a person other than the convicted defendant may only be seized if it is material evidence of a crime. If original ownership of property can be clearly established,

that property must be returned to its rightful owner. If not, any proceeds from the sale of seized assets must be distributed to the victims of the crime or donated to established victims' rights organizations. The cost of seizure, cataloging, or sale cannot be deducted from those proceeds. No jurisdiction, agency, or governmental body may retain or benefit from the sale or disposal of seized property.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(p). Eminent Domain.

Eminent domain is limited to genuine public use, not commercial development. Compensation must be equal to the higher of the inflation-adjusted original cost or average local market value, as averaged by obtaining three appraisals—one chosen by the owner, one chosen by the Person or entity seeking to seize the property, and one chosen by the Court.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(q). Use of Biometrics in Law Enforcement.

Biometric data with a proven history of reliability and neutrality, such as fingerprints and DNA, may be used as evidence. Newer technologies may not be used until and unless they are affirmatively proven in no fewer than two large-scale blind studies to be both accurate and non-prejudicial. In this context, large-scale means a survey with a representative sample in both the control and test groups that is large and diverse enough to reflect the American population. All studies must be open to peer review for at least one year prior to adoption of the technology in question.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(r). Protection from Self-Incrimination.

A person may not be compelled to speak or testify against themselves. This protection applies in all settings where the Government may compel testimony, including criminal, civil, administrative, and legislative proceedings. A Person is not required to state that they are invoking this Right, and no adverse inference may be drawn from their silence. Refusal to provide records following a subpoena is not automatically protected. Such activity is the normal gathering of evidence, but it requires the same warrant and probable cause as any other search or seizure.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(s). Presumption of Innocence and Non-Liability.

A criminal or civil defendant is presumed to be not guilty or not liable unless proven otherwise in Court. The standard for conviction in a criminal trial is beyond a reasonable doubt, and the standard for liability in a civil trial is preponderance of the evidence.

No predictive algorithms may be used in law enforcement.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(t). Indictment by a Grand Jury.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(t_1). General Grand Jury Requirements

No Person may be held for trial on any felony without the approval of a Grand Jury Indictment, except for active-duty military personnel during wartime, and only for service-related offenses.

Grand juries must be randomly assembled, and an independent counsel must be appointed to refute the prosecution's claims before the grand jury.

Nothing in this clause should be construed as requiring the possible defendant to be informed or present at this hearing, as it does not confer guilt; it only allows for indictment. The government must prove that probable cause exists for believing a crime has been committed and that the person to be indicted has committed it, either in whole or in part.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(t_2). Transparency and Permitted Redactions

When a grand jury returns an indictment, the transcript of the hearing must immediately become part of the public court transcript. The names of victims or witnesses may be redacted to protect their safety or prevent substantial harm to victims of violent or exploitative crime. Classified information and other information this Charter protects from disclosure may also be redacted. The deliberations of the grand jury are not a matter of record and will not be disclosed.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(t_3). Special Prosecutors for Color of Law Prosecutions

At any time that the accused is an employee, contractor, officer, or agent of the United States government, or of the States, or of their constituent parts, whose alleged crime was carried out under color of law, the court must appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute the case. This requirement shall also apply to any individual whose alleged crime involves the misuse of governmental authority or position.

In such cases, the normal prosecutorial channels may not be relied upon. The appointed special prosecutor may not come from an agency or jurisdiction that has ongoing or investigatory relationships with the defendant or the defendant's agency.

The court must invoke this paragraph any time the defendant fits the description provided here. Additionally, the court must invoke this paragraph whenever the victim(s) or their legal representative(s) petition the court for the appointment of a special prosecutor upon a showing of credible evidence:

1. That the alleged offense was committed under color of law, and/or
2. That the normal prosecutorial process presents a reasonable risk of bias or conflict of interest.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(u). Right to a Speedy Trial.

The accused and the public both have the Right to a speedy trial. If there are delays, they must help the accused unless the court finds that the accused acted in bad faith. A trial is considered speedy if it starts within twenty-four (24) months of arraignment. In complicated cases, more time may be given, but only if counsel explains to the judge, with clear proof, why it's needed. Discovery and pre-trial may not exceed three (3) years for any reason.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(v). Right to the Final Verdict of a Jury.

Every Person has the Right to an impartial jury and to a verdict that courts may not override on factual grounds. Juries are the sole judges of fact in both civil and criminal trials. Judicial review on appeal can only consider the application of law and procedure, not the jury's findings. Judgments as a Matter of Law or Judgments Notwithstanding the Verdict are invalid, as they overturn the principle of fact-finding by jury.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(w). Protection from Double Jeopardy.

No person may be prosecuted more than once for the same conduct.

A case must begin in the lowest level of government that has a law against the conduct, in the place where it happened. If that level chooses not to prosecute, the next level of government may do so, but only if the conduct is illegal at that level. This process may continue upward, but once any court has held a trial, no other level of government may prosecute the same conduct, even under a different law.

If a trial ends without a verdict—such as due to a mistrial—it may be retried. But if a verdict is reached, the case is final. A judge may not order a new trial. Prosecutors must bring all charges they intend to pursue before the trial begins. If they choose not to include certain charges, or if the accused is acquitted, they may not prosecute the same behavior with different charges.

If the same conduct may violate both civil and criminal law, both types of cases may proceed. However, civil courts may not award punitive damages in such cases. Punishment is reserved for the criminal process.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(x). Protection from Excessive Bail and Cruel or Unusual Punishments

Excessive bail or fines are forbidden. Punishments may not be cruel or unusual when measured against norms across the United States and other advanced nations. The penalty for abuse of Civic Standing in Article IV, Section 4 of this Charter is not considered a violation of this Right.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(y). Wrongful-Conviction Review.

When new evidence might have changed a verdict resulting in a conviction, any official, defined as an agent or employee of the state in any capacity, possessing it must notify the court. The court must review; if confidence in the verdict is undermined, the Person shall be released, the conviction vacated, and the record expunged.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(z). Freedom of Belief.

Every Person has the Right to believe what they choose. They cannot be forced to act against those beliefs. They may act on those beliefs except where no pathway exists to act without infringing the Rights of another Person. Similarly, they are not required to act when doing so violates their beliefs, unless the inaction directly infringes the Rights of another Person. Every Person has the Right to change their beliefs.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(aa). Religious Freedom.

The Government shall not establish any religion, nor prohibit the free exercise of any religion that does not infringe the Rights of others. Nor may it require that an individual exercise a religion. Public officials or government employees may express personal faith, provided it does not reasonably imply official endorsement by the Government.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ab). Freedom of Speech and Expression.

Everyone has the Right to speak freely, including through art, religion, and politics. The government may not punish or censor expression, except in the narrow instances listed here.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ab$_1$). Unprotected Categories

1. Speech intended and likely to incite imminent lawless action or panic;
2. Deliberate falsehoods causing demonstrable harm, including reckless disregard for truth in contexts where accuracy is legally required, including political speech during the one hundred eighty (180) day period before an election;
3. Lying under oath;
4. Deliberate misinformation about voting procedures, candidate eligibility, or official endorsements intended to mislead voters;
5. Commercial fraud, as defined by law.
6. True threats, including statements meant to instill fear of violence or unlawful harm;
7. Harassment, which is defined as targeting a Person or group in a sustained manner intended to intimidate, silence, or cause emotional harm;
8. Expression of any kind by Associations is unprotected, since Associations have no Civil Rights.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ab$_2$). Obscenity

Offensive or obscene speech is protected. The sole exception is graphic sexual or violent content reasonably likely to be seen or heard by minors without parental

consent. Reasonable limits to protect children are allowed, as long as they don't unduly burden adults.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ab$_3$). Private Autonomy

Private individuals and groups cannot be compelled to host or support speech with which they disagree. In that spirit, but respecting the influence algorithms have on the rights of other individuals, algorithms used to distribute or prioritize publicly available information on private platforms may remain proprietary, but the general principles, inputs, and effects of their design must be made transparent to the public.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ac). Right of Access to the Digital Sphere

The Government shall not restrict any Person's access to the digital sphere for any reason, except as punishment for a crime following conviction or during pre-trial detention. During pre-trial detention, the justification for a restriction must be grounded in the rights of other detainees and the prison or detention center staff. It may not be punitive or have the purpose of cowing or otherwise intimidating the detainee, who has not been proven guilty. That justification must be presented to the presiding judge at the initial hearing. The judge must review the requested restrictions individually and approve or deny them. The period between apprehension and arraignment is permissive in favor of the government. The exception to that permissiveness is that the detainee must be given whatever access is necessary to secure counsel. The digital sphere shall consist of, but is

not limited to, access to the Internet, cellular telephone networks, satellite telephone networks, and comparable future technologies.

This right does not exempt anyone from their responsibilities for the proper handling of classified information.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ad). Freedom of the Media

The People have a Right to a free and independent media. The role of the media is to seek and report the facts and opinion. Presenting a “both sides” balance is not required.

Except as narrowly outlined in Article I, Section 2.B.2(ab), the government can’t censor media content. It may only compel reporters or media outlets to disclose their sources when there is an imminent threat to life and no other reasonable means exist to identify that source.

This Right protects both professional journalists and independent media creators engaged in gathering and disseminating information to the public.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ae). Freedom of Association

Every Person has the Right to freely associate with others. No Person may face legal or civil penalties solely because of their associations.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(af). Freedom of Assembly

Every Person has the Right to assemble peacefully in public spaces. No permit or license shall be required to exercise this Right, and the Government may not prohibit peaceful

assembly in any location where the public is otherwise permitted to be. Safety and health regulations may apply, but must be narrowly defined and not used to suppress expression. Public safety may only justify restricting assembly where there is a demonstrable risk of imminent violence, not merely because others may be offended, disagree, or respond with hostility.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ag). Freedom to Protest or Petition

Every Person has the Right to protest peacefully and to petition the government for change. 'Peacefully' means not initiating violence, but protesters may not be punished if someone else starts a conflict. Protesters may defend themselves if they are attacked, and may not be called 'violent' or required to answer charges of violence for doing so.

Article I, Section 2.B.2(ah). Unenumerated Rights

The absence of a Right in this list does not deny its existence unless expressly reserved for Citizens.

Article I, Section 2.B.3 Civic Rights of Citizens

In addition to the Civil Rights listed above that apply to all Persons, Citizens are also entitled to the following Civic Rights.

Article I, Section 2.B.3(a). Nationality

All Citizens of the United States must be considered Nationals of the United States under international law. Neither Citizenship nor Nationality can be involuntarily stripped under

any circumstances by any government or authority. The existence of coercion negates the legal force of any otherwise apparent voluntary renunciation of Citizenship or Nationality.

Article I, Section 2.B.3(b). Passport and Return

The Government may not deny a Citizen a passport or the Right to return to the United States, except through a lawful extradition process.

All extraditions must meet the following requirements:

- A valid treaty in force at the time of the alleged offense;
- A formal written request from the foreign Government;
- Probable cause evidence acceptable under United States law;
- Judicial review of the evidence, treaty language, and written request; and
- Final approval and certification by the Secretary of State.

No Citizen may be deported for any reason, except as permitted by constitutional process for extradition. A Citizen has the Right to leave or return to the United States.

Article I, Section 2.B.3(c). Residency

All Citizens have the Right to live in the United States.

Article I, Section 2.B.3(d). Right to Vote

Citizens who have reached the age of eighteen (18) may vote in elections and referendums. Registration shall be automatic at their place of residence according to their National Identification Number (NIN) upon reaching their eighteenth birthday. The right of felons to

vote is suspended during any period of incarceration, but must be restored immediately upon release, without regard to additional supervision or other remaining sentence. The sole exception is those convicted of Treason, who shall be ineligible to vote from the time of their conviction until their death.

Article I, Section 2.B.3(d_1). Identification at the Polling Place

The sole identification that shall be required at the polling place shall be biometric or alternate identity verification.

Article I, Section 2.B.3(d_2). Provisional Balloting

If biometrics or alternate identification are not operating correctly, the Citizen may present a National Identification Card and vote provisionally. Provisional ballots must be verified in a matter prescribed by federal law within ten (10) days. All verified provisional ballots must be counted prior to certification of an election.

Article I, Section 2.B.3(e). Peaceful Reformation of the Government

Citizens, operating collectively, have the Civic Right to revoke, reform, or reassign the delegation of Power to Government institutions in any manner they deem necessary, provided that three-fifths (3/5) of them act together to do so.

Article I, Section 2.C. Civic Duties

Citizenship in a free government includes both the right and duty to shape the government.

All Citizens must participate in the work of performing the Civic Duties necessary for the Republic to function and exist. Citizens shall be called for Civic Duty from time to time. Citizens shall be selected randomly via a Civic Lottery or other random process as provided in this Charter or by law. If a Citizen demonstrates a pattern of shirking those duties, then that Citizen will be charged with Failure to Fulfill a Civic Duty. If they are adjudicated guilty of this civic offense as defined in Article IV, Section 7, then their participation shall be compelled and supervised.

Article I, Section 2.C.1. Grounds for Excusal from Civic Duty

Citizens may be excused from Civic Duty only for the following reasons:

1. Severe physical or mental disability that prevents them from serving, as confirmed by their personal doctor and a court-appointed doctor. If the two doctors disagree, the Federal Judge reviewing the petition decides.
2. Age seventy or older.
3. Legal custody of a child under twelve years old and serving would leave the child without supervision.
4. High school students who are currently attending classes.
5. Employees of a state or federal legislature or a court of law at any level.
6. Primary caretakers of someone who cannot care for themselves, as determined by a Federal Judge.
7. Citizens who cannot understand English well enough to participate.
8. Citizens serving active duty military service.
9. Individualized circumstances that:
    1. Would cause financial ruin beyond mere hardship; or
    2. Create an impossible choice between the legal obligation of civic duty and other legal obligations, not including employment.

A Federal District Judge must review all excusal requests. Depending on how complex the request is, that review may be administrative, require a hearing, or both. The judge will decide whether the Citizen meets the requirements. Citizens who are excused for temporary reasons may be called again when their situation changes.

No other reasons for excusal are allowed. Work obligations, business needs, or personal convenience are not grounds for excusal.

To the extent possible, excusal requests should be handled on a broad, categorical basis, rather than for each instance of civic duty. Petitions for excusal must be available for submission online as well as in person.

When no reasonable means existed for advance notice of an absence, excusal can be requested after the fact. After the fact excuses can consider a wider array of mitigating factors to address the unpredictability and inherent chaos of the real world. However, they must first be truly unforeseeable, and second, truly have limited or impeded the citizen's ability to participate in their duties.

Article I, Section 2.C.1(a). Tracking Unexcused Civic Non-Participation

Within three months of ratification of this Charter, Congress must appoint a federal agency to develop an accessible database of Citizens who have unexcused absences from Civic Duties. This database must be linked to the Citizen's National Identification Number (NIN). The citizen must have full access, via their biometrics or alternate verification, to see the entirety of their NIN record. They may petition the appropriate agencies as prescribed by law for corrections of factual error.

In every instance of unexcused absence, the responsible agency (county elections office for election workers, etc.) must report the absence for entry into the database.

Article I, Section 2.C.1(b). Enforcement of Civic Duty

At any time that a Person has at least two unexcused absences from Civic Duty, they may be charged with Failure to Fulfill a Civic Duty. If they reach four such absences, they must be so charged.

Article I, Section 2.C.2. Protections and Compensation for Civic Duty

No employer may terminate or otherwise retaliate against a Citizen for taking time off to Fulfill a Civic Duty. Whenever possible, it is advisable for a Citizen to give notice of such a duty to an employer in advance. Still, merely failing to provide notice cannot, on its own, constitute grounds for termination or other adverse action against the Citizen.

A Citizen who is required to perform Civic Duty shall be paid no less than one-third the salary of a Representative. This amount shall be prorated based on the number of days, full or partial, during which the Citizen is required to report and fulfill their Civic Duty

obligations. The time during which a Citizen is empaneled but released pending future dates or actions shall not be counted as active service. No statute may be written or enforced to withhold, reduce, or deny this just compensation.

Article I, Section 3 – Sovereign Power

Article I, Section 3.A. Specific and Implied Powers

The Citizens delegate specific Powers to Government institutions through this Charter. No institution may exercise authority that is not explicitly or implicitly granted by the Citizens in this Charter and its Amendments.

No agency or official may exercise implied powers to create programs or practices that are likely to suppress, discourage, or chill the free exercise of any Right listed in this Charter.

Article I, Section 3.B. Citizen Referendums and Review

Article I, Section 3.B.1. Periodic Review

Beginning in 2040, and every twenty years thereafter, a national referendum must be held. Its purpose is to determine whether the People reaffirm the delegation of their Sovereign Power to the government under this Charter. The referendum shall occur during the regularly scheduled federal election of that year.

The ballot shall present the following question:

"Do you wish to continue delegating your Sovereign Power to the government as outlined in the National Charter?"

Voters shall respond either "Yes" or "No." If "No" receives three-fifths or more of the votes cast, Consent shall be deemed *In Question*.

Article I, Section 3.B.1(a). Convention and Term of a Demi-Congress

When consent is in question, Congress must convene a Demi-Congress no later than January 31 of the odd-numbered year immediately following the referendum. The Demi-Congress shall be composed of one Citizen selected at random from each State and Territory. The intertribal council of federally recognized Tribes may also select one of its members who is a citizen of the United States to represent its interests in the Demi-Congress. All members of the Demi-Congress, regardless of their origin, shall have an equal voice within the Demi-Congress.

The Demi-Congress must complete its investigation and submit a public report, including findings and any recommendations, by December 31 of the same odd-numbered year.

Article I, Section 3.B.1(b). Scope and Work of the Demi-Congress

The Demi-Congress shall be vested with the authority to investigate the causes of public dissatisfaction with the Charter, and it may design and recommend potential remedies, including reforms, amendments, or structural changes.

The Vice President of the United States shall preside over the Demi-Congress. In this role, the Vice President shall serve solely as a neutral arbiter of parliamentary procedure and may not participate in deliberation or influence outcomes.

Congress must fully fund the Demi-Congress from the legislative budget. The Demi-Congress shall have the power to commission public opinion research, conduct hearings, request testimony, and consult expert advisors as it deems necessary.

Article I, Section 3.B.1(c). Public Education Period

If recommendations are made, a period of public education shall begin on January 1 of the next even-numbered year. The Demi-Congress is responsible for this education phase. They will ensure fair representation of both sides of each recommendation. They will ensure broad-based communication with the public. To this end, they shall be assisted by the Federal Elections Commission. This communication and education includes online segments and virtual public forums, as well as advertisements in various media.

Article I, Section 3.B.1(d). Referendum on the Question

Each recommendation must be submitted to a binding national referendum held during the next regularly scheduled federal election. If three-fifths of the voters confirm a recommendation, it is adopted. Otherwise, it is not. The results of the referendum shall be binding. The outcome of the vote shall close the Question until the next scheduled twenty-year review or until the People initiate a new review through lawful procedures.

Article I, Section 3.B.1(e). Non-Exclusivity Provision

Nothing in this Section limits the Citizens' Power to initiate Charter revision or replacement through the procedures defined in Article VI, Section 4.

Article I, Section 3.B.1(f). Prohibition on Government Interference and Obstruction

No branch or official of government may obstruct, delay, interfere with, or refuse to administer the referendum or processes described in this Section. Any such act constitutes

a breach of this Charter and may be challenged by any Citizen, including under Civic Standing as defined in Article IV.

Article I, Section 3.B.2. Challenged Review

Any government statute, executive order, agency rule, or court ruling—by Congress, the Executive, the Judiciary, or a federal agency—that directly affects the Rights of Persons or the Powers of the States may be challenged by a Citizen Review Petition.

At least three percent (3%) of eligible voters must sign the petition within one hundred eighty (180) days of the action taking effect, and the petition must be submitted to the Speaker of the House. The House of Representatives may determine the specifics of that mechanism, but it may not impose a burden on the petitioners.

If those conditions are met and injunctive relief is requested, the challenged action shall be suspended. Otherwise, the action may proceed but must be reversed if the People reject it in the ensuing referendum.

When a challenged review is triggered, the originating authority must provide a formal written justification in clear and accessible language. This justification must be written at a level understandable by the majority of the citizens. It must explain the reason for the measure and its intended effects.

This justification must be easily accessible to all Citizens. The originating authority must make it available at least ninety (90) days before the next Federal Election. If the timing of the challenge makes it impossible to provide that justification in time, the review will be

decided in the following year's Federal Election, instead. When this extension is required, the originating authority must publish its justification within thirty (30) days of initiation of the challenge. If it fails to do so, the action in question is nullified. Under those circumstances, all laws revert to their previous state.

The referendum shall be binding. If three-fifths (⅗) of Citizens voting reject the action, it must be reversed in full within ninety (90) days unless reversal is impossible, in which case a public remedy must be enacted by law.

Article I, Section 4 – National Identification Number (NIN)

Article I, Section 4.A. Mandatory National Identification

All Persons within the United States shall possess a National Identification Number (NIN). The Federal Government must issue the NIN, and the State or Territory of their primary residence must provide an Identification Card linked to their NIN. The Identification Card will conform to a national standard.

This requirement applies to all Citizens, lawful permanent residents, and temporary residents with authorized status.

Individuals present on diplomatic or tourist visas are exempt from this requirement.

Foreign nationals awaiting immigration adjudication shall receive a provisional NIN, which shall be revoked or converted to a permanent NIN, depending upon the outcome of their adjudication.

Article I, Section 4.B. Biometric Requirements

Each NIN shall be linked to digitally encoded biometric data consisting of the thumb or index fingerprint from each hand of the cardholder. At least one alternative verification method shall be established by Congress within six months of ratification of this Charter for Persons unable to provide fingerprint biometrics, and for use where use of fingerprints is not practicable, or at any time the person in question prefers to use it over biometrics.

Congress shall have the right to revise the alternate verification method(s), provided that:

1. Any such change is announced with not less than eighteen (18) months' notice before taking effect; and
2. At least one functioning alternative method always remains in effect.

Article I, Section 4.C. Issuance

Article I, Section 4.C.1. Birth

A new National Identification Number (NIN) must be generated at birth, and biometric data recorded if physically possible. Midwives, hospitals, and other medical professionals have an affirmative duty to ensure a new NIN is properly created.

In instances where births occur outside of the confines of a medical setting, the mother or her next of kin (besides the infant) must execute an affidavit of birth with the State or at an Embassy or Consulate.

If the birth occurred in the United States, the affidavit shall so indicate and will be properly executed once submitted to the State.

If the birth occurred outside the United States to one or both parents who are U.S. Citizens, the affidavit submitted at the U.S. Consulate or Embassy must include the mother's name. If the Citizenship of an infant relies on the Citizenship of the father, the affidavit must also include the name of the father. The affidavit will be sworn in person to be considered executed.

Regardless of the means of execution, upon properly and fully executing an affidavit of birth, a NIN must be issued.

Article I, Section 4.C.2. Immigrants and Other Foreign Persons

A National Identification Number (NIN) shall be generated upon arrival for immigrants, humanitarian parolees, and asylum seekers at their point of entry, and biometric data must be linked at that time. In these cases, an Identification Card must be generated on the spot and presented to the foreign person.

Outside of designated ports of entry, any foreign national not in possession of a valid tourist visa or a NIN shall immediately be detained. They shall promptly receive a preliminary hearing in immigration court, where they may make a petition for asylum. If they choose to do so and meet the plausibility criteria established by law, the normal issuance of a provisional NIN will proceed. Otherwise, they are understood as illegally present in the United States and subject to deportation.

Where lawful status is contested, biometric or Congressionally permitted alternative verification of a valid NIN shall serve as definitive evidence of lawful presence or the lack thereof. If an individual is lawfully present, they may not be deported absent charges of criminality, distinct from their immigration status. Such charges are not, in themselves, grounds for deportation. The individual retains their right to trial by jury and may only be deported upon being found guilty.

Article I, Section 4.C.3. Post-Ratification Transition

Birth issuance and issuance to foreign nationals upon entry shall begin not later than one (1) year after the date of ratification of this Charter.

For those individuals living and residing within the U.S. at the time of ratification, there shall be a five-year period in which they may seek their National Identification Number (NIN), which shall be based on their Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number. Congress must issue guidance in law regarding requirements for issuance of NINs to living persons; however, verification of citizenship or immigration status may not require the individual to make any payment to any level of government or any private organization to secure necessary documentation.

During the transitional period, the government, acting through the States, has the duty to find and enroll the homeless population into the NIN system.

During the transition period, whenever state or federal licensure is initiated or updated, a NIN shall be required, and the license shall be linked to the NIN. Any licensure, permit, or identification issued by a State or the Federal Government that, at the time of issuance, required proof of citizenship shall be deemed to satisfy all future requirements to prove citizenship for purposes of obtaining a National Identification Number or renewing said license, permit, or identification. Any legal detention shall require the issuance of a NIN if none exists. No law may require supplemental documentation from such individuals.

Utility companies, telephone companies, and banks shall begin accepting NINs on their records beginning one (1) year after ratification and shall require NINs beginning three (3) years after ratification.

Article I, Section 4.C.4. Timely Issuance Obligation

The Federal Government has an obligation to issue National Identification Numbers promptly. Records verifications of existing Persons should be accomplished within ten (10) business days. Issuance to new births and to foreign nationals upon arrival must be accomplished upon request.

Likewise, any individual who requests a National Identification Card from their state, upon verification of their identity through biometrics or alternative verification, must be issued one immediately.

Article I, Section 4.D. Comprehensive Data Integration

All immigration status, felony status, residency information, voter registration, and federal or state licensure must be linked to the National Identification Number. All civic duty participation shall be linked to the National Identification Number.

Article I, Section 4.E. Privacy and Enforcement Restrictions

Article I, Section 4.E.1. Commercial Use Prohibition

The National Identification Number (NIN) may be used for credit reporting purposes solely to confirm identity and identify bank data, when such information is requested directly from the financial institution in question.

The government must not disclose any bank account or transaction data for this or any other purpose.

Credit reporting shall not include access to biometric data or any other information linked to the NIN.

The NIN shall not be used for any other commercial purpose.

Article I, Section 4.E.2. Law Enforcement Limitations

Law enforcement may require an individual to provide biometric or alternative identification if an officer or deputy has a reasonable suspicion that the individual has committed a crime or is in the process of doing so. In these cases, the National Identification Number (NIN) shall be limited to the identity, residence, immigration/citizenship status, and court orders currently in force, such as arrest warrants or restraining orders, of the Person in question.

For any further access, law enforcement must obtain a signed judicial warrant authorizing access to additional data from the NIN, and the warrant must specify the suspected crime and the data that may be retrieved.

Article I, Section 4.E.3 Security of the National Identification Number System

Congress shall establish and maintain an agency to secure the National Identification Number system. At a minimum, that agency shall ensure data integrity and data security, and shall conduct a daily physical backup of the NIN system. The agency in question shall also consider emergent best practices for data security and must report annually to Congress with recommendations for security upgrades. This annual requirement is a

minimum, not a limit. Backups will be physically secured and retained for a minimum of five years.

ARTICLE II – THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Article II, Section 1 – General Provisions

The Citizens delegate legislative power to a Congress made up of two Chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The purpose of the Senate is to represent the interests of the several States and the Tribes as Sovereign subdivisions, which are outlined in Article V.

The purpose of the House of Representatives is to serve as the voice of the Citizens.

The Powers of Congress exist only to protect the Rights of the People.

Article II, Section 1.A. General Eligibility

No Person may run for Congress if they have been convicted of a felony in any State or under federal law. No non-Citizen may hold office in Congress.

A Person running for Congress must live in the State or District that they are running to represent and must maintain their legal primary residency in that State or District for the duration of their service. The Tribal Council established in Section 6 of this Article shall determine the residency requirements for its Senator.

A Person otherwise disqualified by felony conviction may ask a special panel of the Federal Judiciary—composed of seven judges drawn by lot from among the sitting judges of the Circuit Courts of Appeal and the Provincial Appellate Courts, excluding all others—to restore their eligibility by showing clear and convincing evidence that the conviction was

wrongful, politically motivated, or that they have demonstrated a sustained pattern of civic responsibility since their conviction.

Article II, Section 1.B. Term Limits

Article II, Section 1.B.1. General Limits

Members of Congress shall be limited to four full terms in the House of Representatives and two full terms in the Senate. If a Member serves a partial term lasting less than half of a full term, the partial term does not count as a full term; however, anything longer than that is considered a full term.

Article II, Section 1.B.2. Combined Limit

The maximum total allowable tenure in Congress is twenty full years, counting all terms, full or partial, in both chambers combined.

Article II, Seciton 1.C. Numbered Congresses, Timekeeping, Oaths, Chamber Leadership, and the Legislative Day

Article II, Section 1.C.1. Numbered Congresses

A numbered Congress is two years in length, beginning at 12:01 a.m. on January 2nd in odd-numbered years, and running until the same time of the next odd-numbered year. Each Congress is numbered, and that numbering shall continue the existing numeration in sequence.

Each numbered Congress consists of two annual sessions, each of which follows the legislative year. The legislative year begins at 12:01 a.m. on January 2nd and runs until the same time of the following year.

Article II, Section 1.C.2. Congressional Timekeeping

On the first day of each Congress, at 8:00 a.m. in the Nation's capital, the Chief Justice will administer the congressional oath of office to a single Representative, chosen randomly by lot. That Representative will act as Acting Speaker of the House until a new Speaker is elected.

The Acting Speaker of the House will then administer the oath of office to each Representative. Similarly, the most senior Senator whose term has not expired, determined by date of election, then birthdate, and finally alphabetical order of first, last, and other names, if necessary, will administer the oath of office to each newly elected Senator.

Article II, Section 1.C.2(a). Oath of Office

The oath of office in both chambers is the same:

"I, (full legal name), solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will uphold the Rights of the Sovereign People of the United States, who have entrusted me with this office and delegated to me the various powers that go with it. To that end, I will do my best to faithfully execute my duties as delegated through the National Charter of the United States and uphold its laws."

Article II, Section 1.C.2(b). Election of Leadership

Once all members are sworn in, each Chamber will elect its leadership by secret ballot in accordance with the Chamber's rules. Upon electing their leadership, the respective leaders will assign committees and chairs for those committees and will appoint or extend the appointments of the various support offices.

Article II, Section 1.C.2(c). Legislative Day

A legislative day begins at 12:01 a.m. and ends at the same time the following day. Congress may remain in session continuously, but must recess for at least one minute between legislative days to preserve the calendar and record.

Article II, Section 1.C.3. Chamber Rules of Procedure

Each house of Congress shall set its own Rules of procedure. The Rules must be enforced by the Chamber Parliamentarian. The Rules shall have the force of law with respect to conduct within each chamber. If at any point the Chamber Parliamentarian determines that any Rule has been violated, they must issue a formal, written notice to the Leadership of the Chamber. The notice must be published in a prominent place, visible to all members. If the Rule violation is not remedied to the satisfaction of the Chamber Parliamentarian, they must file suit in the Supreme Court against the Leadership of the Chamber, seeking injunctive relief and interpretation of the Rule or Rules in question.

Although each Chamber retains the right to write its own Rules of procedure, neither may it encode in those Rules any mechanism that favors faction or political party. Nor may the

Rules include any provision that evades the requirements of this Charter, whether in function, outcome, or intent.

Article II, Section 1.D. Congressional Work Expectations

The following rules ensure that Members of Congress meet the same basic expectations that apply to working Americans across the country.

Article II, Section 1.D.1. Excused Absences

Members of Congress must attend all official duties unless excused for good cause by the leadership of their chamber. Each chamber shall set fair rules for reporting and verifying such absences. Members who follow these rules in good faith are not considered in violation.

Article II, Section 1.D.2. In-Session Workdays

When Congress is in session, Members must work a full day of at least eight hours. Each chamber may set reasonable schedules, but the standard workday must be met.

Article II, Section 1.D.3. Recess Workdays

When Congress is in recess, Members must still perform official duties. They must maintain a daily schedule focused on district service, constituent outreach, public meetings, or official oversight. The eight-hour minimum workday still applies during recess, except for approved leave. Travel to or from the Member's district, or to official meetings or

delegations, counts as part of the workday. Commuting to or from their regular office does not.

Article II, Section 1.E. Constituent Engagement

Each calendar year, Members of Congress shall spend between ninety (90) and one hundred twenty (120) days in their home districts or States, engaged in public service and constituent outreach. These periods shall be scheduled in multiple recesses throughout the year, as determined by each chamber's rules. The House and Senate must coordinate their calendars to ensure these recesses occur at the same time. Recess periods may be shortened if Members are summoned back to the Capitol by the leadership of their chamber in response to an emergency or urgent national need. All remaining weekdays—excluding designated national holidays—shall be official workdays during which Congress is in session. Reasonable exceptions for the unpredictability of weather and similar events can be made, if agreed to by the combined leadership of both chambers. Saturdays and Sundays are not considered workdays unless Congress is called into special session.

Article II, Section 1.F. Mandatory In-Session Housing

Congress must provide each Member with a standardized residence suitable for family habitation. The Member must live in this residence when Congress is in session. It will include at least three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living space. The government shall cover maintenance, furnishings, and utilities. These residences ensure Members can perform their duties in the Capital without undue hardship while preserving

their home-district living arrangements. Congress may prescribe by law detailed regulations governing these residences.

Article II, Section 1.G. Compensation

Members of Congress are paid equal to the 90th percentile of individual income from the most recent decennial census.

Article II, Section 1.H. Miscellaneous Provisions

Either Chamber may vote to expel one of its Members for serious misconduct, but only with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all current Members of that Chamber. For this subsection, serious misconduct means ethical or legal violations as referred by that Chamber's Ethics Panel.

No Member of Congress shall receive special treatment, privileges, or titles unavailable to others. All Members are equal under the rules.

Neither Chamber, nor Congress acting collectively, may create any rule or practice that violates the letter or intent of this Charter.

Article II, Section 2 – Congressional Ethics

Article II, Section 2.A. Code of Ethics and Enforcement

Article II, Section 2.A.1. Congressional Code of Ethics

Congress will adopt and enforce a Code of Ethics that applies to all Members and staff. The Code must prohibit bribery, financial self-dealing, abuse of power, deliberate deception, and any failure to disclose conflicts of interest. It must require public financial disclosures and recusal from official actions where a conflict exists. This Code has the force of law under this Charter and may not be waived or weakened by ordinary chamber rules.

The Code must be reviewed for updates at least every six years.

Article II, Section 2.A.2. Chamber Ethics Panels

Each chamber must establish a permanent Ethics Panel with at least twelve members, chosen at random from the chamber's membership, excluding the Speaker of the House and the Leader of the Senate. Each chamber's Panel shall have the power and duty to investigate and recommend sanctions for violations by members of the chamber and their staff.

The Ethics Panel for each chamber must convene for at least thirty (30) minutes weekly whenever Congress is in session. The Panel may be convened longer or more frequently.

Article II, Section 2.A.3. Ethics Investigations

The Ethics Panel must investigate ethics claims against members of Congress and other legislative staff.

Although complaint details may be kept confidential, the fact that a complaint has been raised must be publicly recorded in the Congressional Record. This record of complaint must include the name(s) of the Member(s) and/or staff under investigation, and a brief title stating the nature of the complaint.

Complaints may be filed by petition of at least fifty thousand (50,000) legal residents of the Member's district or State. Such a petition must be submitted to the chamber's parliamentarian, who must submit it to the appropriate Panel. A Complaint may also be filed by a Local Delegate or another member of the same chamber.

If it finds clear and convincing evidence of wrongdoing, the Panel must refer the complaint to the full chamber, with recommendations for action. Regardless of whether the Panel votes as a body to recommend action, the votes by Panel members must be part of the Congressional Record, as well.

Article II, Section 2.A.4. Open and Accountable Votes

When recommendations for action are referred, the whole chamber will deliberate in open session and must make a final vote within forty-five (45) days. Voice votes or votes of acclamation are prohibited.

Article II, Section 2.B. Financial Anti-Corruption Standard

From the date of their initial swearing-in until two years after their final departure from Congress, the following rules apply to all Members of Congress.

Article II, Section 2.B.1. Personal Bank Accounts

Members may maintain personal bank accounts under their direct control with a combined balance not exceeding their annual Congressional salary. If funds are transferred to a spouse, partner, or child living either in their official or primary residence, the spouse's or child's accounts are considered under the Member's control for this subclause.

Article II, Section 2.B.2. Retirement Savings

Members may retain individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and other personal, tax-advantaged retirement instruments. Such accounts are exempt from the personal bank account balance limit, provided they consist solely of deposits, fixed-income instruments, or other assets not traded on public securities markets.

Article II, Section 2.B.3. Blind Trust Requirement

All other financial holdings, which can include, but are not limited to, publicly traded or privately held securities, business interests, and any real estate other than the Member's primary residence in their home state or district, must be placed in a qualified blind trust administered by an independent fiduciary. The Member is prohibited from having direct control or knowledge of transactions within the trust during the covered period. Similarly,

the fiduciary is prohibited from having knowledge of the Member's Congressional duties and briefings beyond what is in the public domain.

The Member shall, upon establishing the trust, define the general investment direction and risk tolerance of any securities for the fiduciary. Additionally, they shall at that time make provisions for the management, purchase, or sale of real estate during their service. The Member may, at their discretion, change those instructions once every two years, at the inception of a new Congress. No other instructions may be issued to the fiduciary at any time for any reason outside of civil and family law matters overseen by and initiated in a court of law.

General investment direction shall consist of naming a general strategy for the portfolio, such as growth, stability, or income. It may not specify the markets, sectors, or behaviors required for any investment.

In the event of the Member's death while assets are bound in the trust, control immediately and irrevocably transfers to the Member's primary beneficiary.

Article II, Section 2.B.4. Prohibited Trading

Members may not directly participate in any transactions involving securities or real estate involving non-exempt property during the covered period.

Article II, Section 2.B.5. Disclosure

Beginning February 1 of each year, each Member must disclose to the Ethics Panel of their chamber a full accounting of all financial holdings and accounts under their direct control

for review. Once begun, this disclosure must happen monthly on the first business day of the month for the remainder of the legislative year.

Article II, Section 2.C. Permissible Sanctions for Ethics Violations

Either Chamber may, upon the recommendation of the Ethics Panel, choose to censure, fine, or expel a member of that Chamber for violations of the Congressional Code of Ethics.

The escalation pathway is censure, then fine, then expulsion. Sanctions need not start with censure; the Chamber may choose any level of sanction for a first offense.

No member, having faced a sanction, may be adjudicated the same or lesser sanction for subsequent violations of the Code of Ethics.

Article II, Section 3 – Legislative Infrastructure

All legislative support offices and infrastructure shall belong to the Bureau of Legislative Support. This bureau shall be led by a Chief Officer of Legislative Support, who shall be nominated by a bi-cameral panel of five members of Congress: Two randomly selected from the House of Representatives, two randomly selected Senators, and either the Leader of the Senate or the Speaker of the House, the choice between them determined by a public coin toss.

The nominated candidate must be confirmed by a majority vote in both chambers. They can be removed only by a majority vote in both chambers. No official, elected or appointed, is vested with unilateral authority to dismiss them.

The Chief Officer of Legislative Support shall serve a single, non-renewable ten-year term.

Article II, Section 3.A. Administrative Division

Within the Bureau of Legislative Support, there shall be an Administrative Division. This division shall encompass the Legislative Counsel Office, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Congressional Records Office (CRO), and additional administrative offices, limited to legislative administrative support, as established by Congress.

The Administrative Division shall be led by a Director of Legislative Administration, nominated by the Chief Officer of Legislative Support. The nominated candidate must be confirmed by, and is removable only by, a three-fifths (3/5) vote in both chambers. No

official, elected or appointed, is vested with unilateral authority to dismiss them. Alternatively, when impeachable behavior is present, they may be removed via the impeachment process.

The Director of Legislative Administration shall serve a renewable ten-year term beginning upon their confirmation. Term renewal is subject to the same nomination and confirmation requirements as the initial term.

Each office within the Administrative Division shall be led by an Assistant Director, as provided for in the sub-clause describing the Office they lead. The Director of Legislative Administration shall appoint Assistant Directors within the Administrative Division. A nominated candidate must be confirmed by and may only be removed by a three-fifths (3/5) majority vote in both chambers. No official, elected or appointed, is vested with unilateral authority to dismiss them.

As with all officials, an Assistant Director may also be removed via the impeachment process when behavior warrants.

Assistant Directors are experts in the operations of their offices and must be independent from political influence. Therefore, they serve lifetime appointments unless removed as prescribed in this Charter. They report to the Director of Legislative Administration.

Article II, Section 3.A.1. Legislative Counsel Office

Within the Administrative Division, Congress must maintain an office of experts in legislative drafting and statutory interpretation. It will prepare bills, amendments, and

legal opinions upon request from any Member, Ethics Panel, or Committee. Alternatively, the office may review proposed legislation written by third parties, looking for unexpected or potentially buried provisions, unintended consequences, and other legal pitfalls in the draft language.

The Legislative Counsel Office shall be led by the Assistant Director for Legislative Counsel.

Article II, Section 3.A.2. Congressional Budget Office (CBO)

Within the Administrative Division, Congress must maintain a Congressional Budget Office (CBO). It shall provide independent, nonpartisan cost estimates, revenue projections, and budgetary analyses. All CBO reports and data shall be published in full and publicly available, with no external review or amendment by any member of Congress or appointee outside the CBO prior to release.

The Congressional Budget Office shall be led by the Assistant Director for Budgeting.

Article II, Section 3.A.3. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Within the Administrative Division, Congress must maintain a Government Accountability Office (GAO). This office shall assist Congress by conducting audits and investigating the procedures and operations of government agencies and shall report its findings directly to Congress. It shall have no enforcement power of its own. All reports and audits shall be published in full and publicly available, with no external review or amendment by any member of Congress or appointee outside the GAO prior to release.

The Government Accountability Office shall be led by the Assistant Director for Government Accountability.

Article II, Section 3.A.4. Congressional Records Office (CRO)

Within the Administrative Division, Congress must maintain a Congressional Records Office, which shall encompass the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The Congressional Records Office shall be led by the Assistant Director for Congressional Records.

The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives are civil servants promoted by the Assistant Director for Congressional Records from within the ranks of the CRO. Their promotion, employment, and termination are otherwise subject to the usual laws and regulations governing all other employees of the Federal Government.

Article II, Section 3.B. Operations Division

Within the Bureau of Legislative Support, there shall be an Operations Division. This division shall encompass the Parliamentarian's Office, the Capitol Police Board, and the Offices under their control. Congress shall have the power to add offices to the Operations Division, provided their function is limited to:

- Enforcement of chamber rules, or
- Order, security, and maintenance of the Capitol and its ancillary facilities.

The Operations Division shall be led by a Director of Legislative Operations, who shall be appointed by the Chief Officer of Legislative Support. The nominated candidate must be confirmed by and is only removable by a three-fifths (3/5) vote in both chambers. No official, elected or appointed, is vested with unilateral authority to dismiss them.

The Director of Legislative Operations shall serve a renewable ten-year term beginning upon their confirmation. Term renewal is subject to the same requirements of nomination and confirmation as an initial term.

Article II, Section 3.B.1. Parliamentarian's Office

Congress must maintain an office of experts in Parliamentary Rules and Procedure. The office shall track the history of the Rules of each Chamber and shall enforce compliance with the Rules in force at any given time.

The Parliamentarian's Office shall be led by a Parliamentarian of the United States Congress. This individual shall be appointed by the Director of Legislative Operations and shall report directly to them. The nominated candidate must be confirmed by and is only removable by a three-fifths (3/5) vote in both chambers. No official, elected or appointed, is vested with unilateral authority to dismiss them.

The Parliamentarian is a subject-matter expert in Congressional parliamentary procedure. For this reason, they serve a lifetime appointment unless removed as prescribed in this Charter.

The Parliamentarian of the United States Congress shall promote one individual for each Chamber of Congress from within the ranks of the civil service in the Parliamentarian's Office to serve as the Chamber Parliamentarian for their respective Chamber (*i.e.*, a Senate Parliamentarian and a Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives). The promotion, employment, and termination of the Chamber Parliamentarians are otherwise subject to the usual laws and regulations governing all other employees of the Federal Government.

Article II, Section 3.B.2. Capitol Police Board

Within the Operations Division, Congress must maintain a Capitol Police Board. This Board shall have as members the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeants at Arms of each Chamber of Congress, and the Chief of the Capitol Police. All four members are full, voting members.

As a body, the Capitol Police Board is responsible for security, maintenance, and emergency contingency plans for the Capitol building and its ancillary facilities.

The Capitol Police Board, as a body, is collectively accountable to the Director of Legislative Operations. Its constituent members, acting as heads of their offices, are also individually accountable to the Director of Legislative Operations.

Each is nominated by the Director of Legislative Operations. Each nominated candidate must be confirmed by and is only removable by a three-fifths (3/5) vote in both chambers. No official, elected or appointed, is vested with unilateral authority to dismiss them.

Members of the Capitol Police Board each serve a renewable ten-year term. Renewal requires the same appointment and confirmation process as the initial term.

Article II, Section 3.B.2(a). Office of the Architect of the Capitol

Congress must maintain the Office of the Architect of the Capitol. Its daily operations shall be directed and overseen by the Architect of the Capitol. This office shall be responsible for all matters concerning the management and upkeep of the Capitol and its ancillary facilities (such as secondary congressional office buildings).

Article II, Section 3.B.2(b). Capitol Police

Congress must maintain the Capitol Police. Its daily operations shall be directed and overseen by the Chief of the Capitol Police. The Capitol Police have primary law enforcement jurisdiction for the Capitol and its ancillary facilities. They may detain or arrest individuals subject to the restrictions on law enforcement outlined in this Charter. They also have authority to investigate crimes committed on Capitol grounds, with discretion to delegate that authority to Executive Branch law enforcement.

Article II, Section 3.B.2(c). The Sergeants at Arms of the Senate and the House of Representatives

Congress must maintain offices and staff for the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives. Each of the two Sergeants at Arms shall direct and oversee the daily operations of their offices and staff.

The Sergeants at Arms are responsible for security and ceremonial functions within their respective Chambers. They each shall command a detachment of Capitol Police whose

duties are restricted to ensuring the physical security of the Chamber and the Members and staff related to that Chamber.

Additionally, at the direction of a Committee Chair properly authorized by their Committee, the Sergeants at Arms must issue warrants of arrest to the Chief of the Capitol Police for the apprehension of individuals in Contempt of Congress. If such a warrant is executed, the arrested individual is remanded to the Executive Branch, which must prosecute the charge of Contempt of Congress vigorously, regardless of the individual involved.

Article II, Section 4 – The Powers of Congress

A majority of duly sworn and elected Members of a given Chamber must be present or capable of participation in debate and vote under the Rules of that Chamber in order to carry out any business in that Chamber. For the purposes of this Charter, this is the definition of a Quorum, except for the emergency modifications permitted under subsection 4.G of this Article.

Except for the single exception enumerated in Article II, Section 4.G.2, physical presence in the Capitol must always be considered as presence and the capability to participate. Additionally, any other condition of participation or physical location must apply equally to every Member of the Chamber.

Five days of unexcused absence from Congress, when such absence causes or contributes to a lack of Quorum, and when such absence could be reasonably avoided, shall result in immediate loss of Office upon one-half ($^1/_2$) plus one of Members present so assenting. Such a vote must be held for all absent Members as a bloc.

When a Quorum is present, Congress may exercise the various Powers delegated to it in this Section by the Citizens.

Article II, Section 4.A. Legislation

Article II, Section 4.A.1. Legislative Process

Except as otherwise constrained in this Charter, either Chamber may introduce a Bill for consideration. Passage of a Bill in either Chamber shall require a simple majority of votes cast to be in assent.

A Bill, having been passed in one Chamber, shall be submitted to the other Chamber for consideration, revision, and amendment.

Upon a Bill passing the second Chamber, both Chambers must meet in open joint session and debate the Reconciliation of both Chambers' versions of the Bill, and ratify the final Bill. The Senate Leader shall preside over the joint session, but the procedural rules of the House of Representatives shall prevail. Voice votes or acclamation are permitted for amendments and procedural questions; however, passage of the whole Bill requires individual, recorded votes of assent, dissent, or abstention.

Any Bill receiving a majority of votes cast in assent shall be considered passed and must be transmitted to the President for signature, remand, or veto.

Article II, Section 4.A.2. General Legislation

Congress may enact necessary and proper laws to fulfill the general federal legislative duties required by the People and this Charter, provided such laws do not infringe the Rights of the People or exceed the limits of Constitutional delegation. Similarly, no law may infringe on the Rights and duties of the States and Tribes as outlined under Article V.

Any bill or law that results from a bill must meet the following requirements:

- It must be written in plain language, generally understandable by an adult, fluent in the English language, with an ordinary level of education, but not necessarily legal training.
- Any technical terms must be defined in an easy-to-find and identified glossary in the text of the bill. Any such definitions shall be the operative legal definitions.
- The first Section of the bill or law must include a written explanation detailing why the bill was introduced and how it serves the larger purpose of the government in securing the Rights of the People.

Laws enacted before ratification of this Charter are exempt from these requirements.

Failure of Congress to meet the requirements outlined here renders the bill unable to be presented to the President for signature, remand, or veto. Any such failure must be remedied before a bill can advance to law.

In any case where a Federal Appellate Court finds that these requirements were not met, the Court in question is obligated to remand the law to Congress for remedy and resubmission to the Court within thirty (30) days. Failure on the part of Congress to submit a remedied bill to the Court's satisfaction requires the Court to strike down the law as unconstitutional, without regard for severability or other considerations.

Article II, Section 4.A.3 Material Interstate Legislation

Congress shall have the authority to legislate on matters that materially and necessarily concern coordination or relations among two or more States, but only when such legislation is essential to resolve a demonstrable jurisdictional conflict, ensure the uniform application of Civil or Natural Rights across State boundaries, or provide a framework for lawful intergovernmental cooperation.

This authority shall not extend to matters that States can resolve independently, nor to those that merely affect multiple States without requiring federal involvement.

Article II, Section 4.B. Taxation

Article II, Section 4.B.1. Congressional Authority

Congress has the sole power to levy, suspend, or repeal taxes, duties, tariffs, and excises. This power is non-delegable.

Article II, Section 4.B.2. Procedural Requirements

All bills involving taxation must be stand-alone bills and must originate in the House of Representatives. No bill may contain both taxation provisions and non-taxation provisions.

For the purposes of this provision, a tax is any revenue stream described in Article II, Section 4.B.1 of this Charter or any other source of government income. This includes all fees, duties, tariffs, excises, assessments, or other instruments of revenue generation.

Article II, Section 4.B.3. Comprehensive Reform Mandate

On or before the seventh anniversary of this Charter's ratification, Congress must submit a new, comprehensive taxation framework that is fair to the People. Every five years thereafter, Congress must revisit the taxation framework to ensure it remains fair.

Article II, Section 4.B.4. Enforcement Mechanism

Failure to provide a revised tax code bill for presidential signature at least ninety (90) days before any deadline imposed by Article II, Section 4.B.3 will result in all members of Congress forfeiting twenty-five percent (25%) of their congressional income for that year. Continued failure to provide a revised code by thirty (30) days before the deadline will result in all members forfeiting an additional twenty-five (25%) of their congressional pay for that year. In any year where such a deadline exists, but Congress fails to act by that deadline, every member of Congress will forfeit the remainder of their pay for that year. All forfeited pay that cannot be proactively withheld will be considered tax debt until paid.

If a revised tax code is not in place by the deadline, the tax code already in place remains the effective law.

Article II, Section 4.C. Spending

Congress is responsible for authorizing all government spending. All spending bills must originate in the House of Representatives. No other branch of government may have discretion over spending. Congress may not delegate this Power by implication, though explicit, narrow discretion may be conferred by legislation.

Artificial limits, such as debt ceilings, are not permitted. Congressional authorization of spending requires either provisions in the authorizing bill or a separate act to pause, suspend, or repeal.

The federal fiscal year begins on October 1.

Article II, Section 4.C.1. Balanced Budgets and Deficit Spending

Congress may only authorize those expenditures whose projected outlays do not exceed projected revenues for the same fiscal period, as estimated by the Congressional Budget Office.

Exceptions of limited scope and fixed duration may be enacted in two circumstances:

1. A formally declared war;
2. An economic downturn, as recognized by a separate joint resolution passing with a majority of Representatives and Senators voting in assent.

In such cases, deficit spending may not exceed the total of the budget items specifically allocated to relieve the triggering condition. It may not be automatically reauthorized for any subsequent fiscal period. If an extension is necessary, Congress must provide that extension through separate legislation.

Congress shall have the Power to borrow money on the credit of the United States, but only within the bounds set by this Charter. At all times, both payments for interest and principal treated as line items in the federal budget.

Article II, Section 4.C.2. Debt Reduction

When debt held by the public exceeds sixty percent (60%) of gross domestic product (GDP), systematic reduction is required during periods of economic expansion, but must be managed to avoid extreme shocks to the broader economy.

During an economic downturn, as defined in Article II, Section 4.C.1, or during a declared war, there is no requirement for debt reduction.

Absent these unusual circumstances, whenever the debt ratio is higher than the trigger threshold, Congress must structure spending such that debt is reduced between one percent (1%) and five percent (5%) of Gross Domestic Product, each year until the debt is below sixty percent (60%).

Article II, Section 4.C.3. Mandatory Government Funding

Congress must enact all spending bills funding the operations of the federal government for the subsequent fiscal year, no later than September 30 of each year.

If no resolution on the budget has passed both chambers of Congress by June 30, all members of Congress forfeit twenty-five percent (25%) of their pay for the current year. If there is still no resolution that has passed both chambers of Congress by August 31, all members of Congress forfeit an additional twenty-five percent (25%) of their pay for that year. All forfeited pay that cannot be proactively withheld will be considered tax debt until paid.

Failure to meet this requirement by September 30, shall result in the immediate and permanent disqualification of every sitting member of Congress from election or appointment to any federal office, whether legislative, executive, or judicial. In such an instance, the budget from the previous year shall prevail.

Bills funding the government for the fiscal year are not subject to a Presidential veto or remand.

Article II, Section 4.C.4. Judicial Budget Safeguard

The Judicial Branch shall have a separate budget, not included in the general federal budget.

The Chief Justice shall send the Judicial Branch's yearly budget to the Speaker of the House. The Speaker will make the budget request public by the end of the legislative day, provided the Chief Justice submits it before 5 p.m.; otherwise, it must be made public by noon the following day.

The budget is approved unless both chambers vote to reject it by a two-thirds (⅔) majority of those present and voting.

If the budget is rejected, the Speaker and the Senate Leader must provide a written explanation within five (5) days, even if the budget deadline passes during that time. If the fiscal year has not concluded, the Chief Justice may then revise and resubmit the budget, starting the process over. This process repeats until the budget is approved or the fiscal

year ends. If no budget is approved by September 30 of any year, the most recent approved budget stays in effect.

Article II, Section 4.D. Commerce Power

Congress may regulate commerce and transportation. This authority extends to activity between the several States and with foreign nations. It does not extend to any restriction or impediment of the President's foreign policy prerogatives.

Article II, Section 4.D.1. Definition of Commerce

For purposes of this Charter, "commerce" means exchanging goods, services, labor, data, or financial value between persons or entities. It does not apply to the Legislative Branch's powers of taxation.

Article II, Section 4.D.2. Limit to Commerce Power

This Power may not be used as a pretext to regulate non-commercial conduct or expand federal authority over private, local, or personal activity unless such activity is plainly commercial and within the definition above.

This limitation only applies to laws passed after this Charter is ratified.

Article II, Section 4.E. Institutional Authority

Subject only to judicial review, Congress shall have the sole authority to create or dismantle institutions of government, except where such institutions are expressly mandated or prohibited by this Charter. For purposes of this subsection, "institutions of government"

means federal offices, agencies, departments, military branches, and other federal entities, including all their subordinate agencies and bodies.

Article II, Section 4.F. Legislative Oversight

Congress has the power and duty to oversee the rest of the government and to investigate problems that might need new laws. Congress may not use this power to threaten or intimidate people or groups for political or social purposes.

Only a committee or subcommittee may conduct oversight and investigations. The Chair or Vice Chair must write a statement explaining the reason for the investigation. This statement must be made public immediately, unless it contains classified information that must be kept confidential.

The written minutes of committee and subcommittee meetings must be made public within forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the meeting, unless they are classified. No video or audio recordings are permitted, so that no Member may use investigations as a platform for delivering speeches or posing questions solely to embarrass witnesses or political opponents.

Performative politics is not an appropriate tool for Congress, and investigations must not be used for that purpose.

Article II, Section 4.G. Emergency Procedural Powers

In certain circumstances, it may become necessary for Congress to act outside regular order to ensure continuity of government.

Article II, Section 4.G.1. Declaration of Emergency

Congress may invoke emergency procedures when necessary, but only after formally declaring an emergency. Emergencies may only be called when circumstances exist that meet at least one of the following conditions:

- Public health emergency making in-person meetings or meetings in the usual venue unsafe;
- Occupation of all or part of the national capital by an armed force hostile to the duly constituted Congress;
- Disasters, such as fires or floods, which impede or prevent access to the usual places of congressional business;
- Other extraordinary circumstances that make ordinary procedures physically impossible or dangerous.

The declaration of emergency must:

- Be issued jointly by the Speaker of the House and the Leader of the Senate;
- Be accompanied by a public statement that describes the emergency and why ordinary procedures cannot be reasonably followed;
- Specify a start date and, if possible, an estimated duration of the emergency;
- Be transmitted to the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of State, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and
- Be made publicly accessible within four (4) hours of issuance.

A declaration of this type expires after sixty (60) days, unless both the Senate and the House vote by simple majority to renew for another sixty (60) days. Renewals must state the conditions that continue to justify the continuation of emergency status.

This provision allows Congress to conduct business outside of regular order when the necessary conditions are met. It must not be understood to grant new Powers to Congress during any such emergency. The emergency provisions only authorize changes to procedure, and do so only while the declared emergency is in effect.

Article II, Section 4.G.1(a). Judicial Review

Any time a declaration has been renewed at least twice, the Supreme Court is required to preemptively review all additional renewals for constitutionality, without the need for a case or controversy. Without a ruling expressly authorizing such renewals, no third or subsequent renewal can be put into place by Congress, and the emergency ends on or before the end of the current emergency authorization.

Article II, Section 4.G.2. Modified Quorum and Temporary Delegation

In an emergency that the Speaker and Senate Leader have properly declared, each chamber can operate under a modified quorum requirement, as long as:

1. At least one-third (1/3) of the current Members are present physically or by verified secured remote participation; and

2. The Parliamentarian certifies that each Member has been afforded a reasonable opportunity to attend or connect, except where doing so would endanger life or liberty.

In a congressionally declared emergency, and only then, the rule established at the beginning of this Section (Article II, Section 4) stating that "physical presence in the Capitol must always be considered as presence and the capability to participate," is inoperative.

If a quorum cannot be met due to death, injury, or dislocation, each Chamber may, by majority vote of those present, adopt a temporary delegation protocol, allowing any present Member to cast votes on behalf of up to two (2) absent Members, but only:

1. If those Members have provided written and signed directives authorizing the delegation, and
2. If the Parliamentarian certifies the authenticity of each delegation directive.

Article II, Section 4.H. Declarations of War

Congress shall have the sole power to declare war, which it may only do upon the request of the President. No use of sustained military action beyond lawful emergency defense (as outlined in Article III, Section 2.A.1) shall be undertaken without such a Declaration. A Declaration of War shall require a simple majority vote in each chamber of Congress.

No declaration is required against an aggressor if the United States is attacked by military force or other intentional attack on our people, military, or critical or strategic infrastructure, such as, but not limited to, utilities, hospitals, ports, military facilities, or

refineries. Acts like these constitute a declaration by the aggressor, creating a state of war between them and the United States.

Article II, Section 4.H.1. Permissible Enemies

A Declaration of War may be made against either a sovereign State or a non-state entity that:

1. Has engaged in or is preparing to engage in one or more acts of armed aggression, terrorism, or coercion against the United States, its Citizens, or its lawful allies; and
2. Possesses an organized command structure and the capacity to carry out such acts.

Congress shall also have the power to declare war, upon request of the President or upon a joint request of the Vice President and the leaders of both chambers of Congress, against any organized group or coalition that has engaged in coordinated acts of violent armed rebellion against the United States. Such a Declaration may be made only in response to actual attacks, not in anticipation of them. Once declared, the full powers of war may be exercised to suppress and defeat the rebellion or use of armed forces against the United States.

This clause formally repeals the Insurrection Act of 1807.

Article II, Section 4.H.2. Requirements for a Declaration of War

All Declarations of War must:

1. Identify the entity or entities against whom war is declared;

2. Set forth the constitutional justification, including the nature and severity of the threat;
3. Describe the intended objectives of the conflict in clear terms, even if full restoration or victory cannot be immediately defined; and
4. Establish fixed conditions and intervals for congressional review, with renewal required for any continuation beyond twelve (12) months.

The full text of any proposed Declaration of War must be published no less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to a final vote, except in cases where delay would produce imminent, irreparable harm, in which case the justification must still be made public within forty-eight (48) hours of the vote.

A Declaration of War does not alter, suspend, or diminish any Right guaranteed by this Charter.

Article II, Section 4.I. Selective Service

Congress will maintain a Selective Service, requiring all Persons aged 18 through 30 to register.

Article II, Section 4.J. Financial Powers

Congress shall have the sole power to establish the currency and shall govern the creation and issuance of its instruments, including all legal tender. This may include both physical currency, as well as currency relying on other means, including, but not necessarily limited to digital transactions or cryptocurrency.

Congress also has the sole power to establish laws governing counterfeiting or devaluation of the currency.

If Congress allows for a central bank with the power over monetary policy, then that implies Congress has delegated the powers necessary for that purpose to the central bank.

Congress shall have the power to establish the laws of bankruptcy that prevail throughout the United States.

Article II, Section 4.K. Intellectual Property

Congress shall establish and update the laws governing intellectual property within the bounds of this Charter.

Copyright shall last for the life of the author plus fifty (50) years, regardless of transfer of ownership during that period. If a corporation establishes original copyright, the term shall be for one hundred twenty (120) years.

Patents shall extend for twenty years from the filing date, except for medical and pharmaceutical patents, which shall extend for ten (10) years from the date the product or procedure is first authorized for use in the United States by the general public, either with or without a prescription.

Trademarks are valid for ten (10) years from the date of registration, renewable indefinitely.

Patents and Copyrights may only extend to the original work. Original Work in this context means the totality of the intellectual property at the time of its first registration for protection. Refinements may be separately registered, but the term of the original work remains unchanged.

Article II, Section 4.L. Armed Forces

Congress has the sole power to establish or abolish military branches and agencies, whether in full or in part. Congress shall also establish a Uniform Code of Military Justice and shall review it for currency during the year of each decennial census.

Congress shall enact, within one year of the ratification of this Charter, a uniform law for the activation of the militias, which shall consist of all of the People, aged 18 through 30, who are registered for the Selective Service, as well as the National Guard and the Air National Guard. That law must not allow for nationalization of the militia against the People. No other militia may exist under this Charter.

Those activated from the Selective Service who conscientiously object, or whose physical health precludes military service, will be assigned alternative civilian duties with pay equivalent to that they would receive as members of the military. Service requirements must be equal, regardless of gender, economic class, race, ethnicity, belief, or other legal classifications. No deferments will be granted for educational pursuits.

Congress shall provide for the organization, arming, and discipline of the militias.

Article II, Section 5 – The House of Representatives

Article II, Section 5.A. Qualifications and Term

To serve in the House of Representatives, a Citizen must be at least twenty-five years old and have been a Citizen of the United States for at least seven years.

Representatives shall serve two-year terms, with each term beginning on January 2 of each odd-numbered year. A duly elected Representative shall serve out the remainder of their term regardless of changes to District boundaries. Redistricting maps shall take effect only at the beginning of the next numbered Congress.

Article II, Section 5.B. Apportionment

The number of Representatives apportioned to each State shall be based on its population, as counted in the decennial national census. The total population of the State shall be divided by five hundred fifty thousand (550,000), dropping all remainders. The resulting quotient shall be the number of Representatives for the State. In any case in which that quotient is zero, the entire State shall be apportioned a single Representative.

There may not be any artificial cap on the total number of Representatives in the House of Representatives. There must be as many as called for, based on population.

The House must ensure there is sufficient space and technology for all Members to meet and work. If there isn't, the House must build new assembly chambers as close as possible

to the current Capitol building. If doing so, reasonable care should be given to the question of whether new assembly chambers should be built for the Senate, as well.

When insufficient space exists, and the construction of new assembly chambers is in progress, one or both Chambers of Congress may contract with and meet in auditoriums or other spaces of sufficient size to seat all Members.

Article II, Section 5.C. Territorial Representation

Each U.S. Territory shall elect one Representative to the House of Representatives. That Representative shall have full voting rights and the same powers and duties as all other Members.

Individual Territories are not entitled to more than one Representative, regardless of population.

Article II, Section 5.D. Elections and Vacancies

Article II, Section 5.D.1. Electors

Representatives shall be elected by the voters of their districts in free, fair, and secure elections.

Article II, Section 5.D.2. Declaration of Candidacy

To declare candidacy, a Person must submit a petition signed by at least twenty thousand (20,000) registered voters from that district, as provided for in Article VI, Section 1.A.9 of this Charter. A registered voter may sign petitions for more than one candidate.

Article II, Section 5.D.3. Vacancy

If a seat becomes vacant mid-term, a special election must be held one hundred twenty (120) days after becoming vacant. In such cases, the normal timelines for declaration of candidacy are suspended. Instead, the candidate must submit their petition no later than ninety (90) days prior to the special election. This requirement is waived if a regular election is scheduled for the seat in question within one hundred eighty (180) days of becoming vacant.

A Representative so elected only serves until the regularly scheduled end of the term for the seat, regardless of the date they assume office.

No vacancy may be filled via appointment.

Article II, Section 5.E. Leadership Selection and Duties

At the start of each new Congress, the House of Representatives shall elect a Speaker and a Vice Speaker from the its duly-elected and sworn membership. The Speaker is chosen first.

To run for either role, in addition to the basic requirements for membership in the House of Representatives, a candidate must be eligible to serve as President or Vice President, in case they are ever needed in the line of succession. There are no other leadership positions in the Chamber.

The House sets the procedures for the elections as part of chamber rules, but the votes must be conducted by secret ballot.

The Speaker of the House presides over the House and sets the legislative agenda, subject to the limitations imposed by this Charter. They also assign committees and committee chairs. The Vice Speaker assists the Speaker and assumes their duties in the Speaker's absence or if the Speaker is incapacitated.

Article II, Section 5.F. House Procedures

Article II, Section 5.F.1. Legislative Procedure

Any Member of the House can introduce a bill. Once a bill is introduced, the full text must be made public right away. Each House seat may, once per Congress, call for a floor vote without leadership assent, and the matter must be taken up for debate the next day and voted upon within ten days. This call shall be made by written petition to the Chamber Parliamentarian.

No bill can be voted on until it has been public for at least seven days, unless the Speaker and Vice Speaker both agree there is a real emergency.

All final votes must be recorded and shared with the public, along with a brief summary of the bill's provisions.

Except as otherwise specifically authorized in this Charter, no vote may be made via secret ballot.

Article II, Section 5.F.2. Public Access and District Accountability

Each Representative must hold at least four public town halls or community meetings in their district every year. These meetings must be announced beforehand and open to everyone in the district.

Representatives must maintain an office in their district with staff who can answer questions, assist constituents with government services, and address public concerns.

Each Representative must also post their schedule, voting record, and any public statements online in a way that is easy for people to find and understand.

If a petition is submitted to a Representative's district or Capitol office asking for the impeachment of a government official, and that petition clearly shows the signatures of at least 10% of the voters in that district, the Representative must file Articles of Impeachment based on the reason stated in the petition.

Article II, Section 5.F.3. Impeachment Procedures

Federal officials, whether elected or appointed, can only be removed via voluntary resignation, by impeachment, or by provisions of this Charter. Articles of Impeachment may only be brought for behavior rising to the level of felonious lawbreaking or for willful violations or attempts at violations of this Charter.

The appropriate House committee must first review all Articles of Impeachment unless they are triggered by a formal petition to a Representative, judicial referral, or process outlined in this Charter.

A written summary of the committee's findings must be made public before the full House votes. The full text of the Articles and voting records must also be published. If the committee refers the Articles to the full chamber, Leadership has no discretion; a floor vote must be held within ten days.

A simple majority of the full House is required to approve Articles of Impeachment.

Article II, Section 6 – The Senate

Article II, Section 6.A. Qualifications and Term

To serve in the Senate, a Citizen must be at least thirty (30) years old and meet other requirements as determined by their State. No requirement may exclude Citizens based on economic status, education, profession, or other characteristics unrelated to basic civic capacity. A Senator from a State must maintain their primary residence in their State for the duration of their term.

Senators serve six-year terms. Approximately one-third (⅓) of Senators begin their term in each odd-numbered year

Article II, Section 6.B. Allocation, Elections, and Vacancies of Senators

Article II, Section 6.B.1. Allocation

Article II, Section 6.B.1(a). States

Each State sends one Senator to the Senate. Each State may delegate its Senator however the People of the State want, provided that method is clearly stated and it is an understandable method grounded in some form of democratic deliberation. It also cannot rely on appointment or election by the Governor or the State legislature. The selection rules must be publicly available at least twelve (12) months before the end of a scheduled term. If a vacancy occurs within that period, the rules most recently in effect will prevail.

To designate the selection method, each State will convene an Assembly of Counties. This Assembly shall consist of one delegate from each county, parish, borough, or similar local jurisdiction, to review the selection rules. The Assembly can establish, affirm, replace, or amend those rules. These Assemblies of Counties must be held at least every ten years.

If a State fails to establish the selection rules, it cannot send any new Senators to Congress as terms expire until it does so. Each State has an inherent interest in establishing their selection criteria and methodology.

The Supreme Court of the affected State will resolve any disputes regarding the selection rules or requirements beyond the baseline requirements of this Charter. In the case of the Tribal Council, the Council shall appoint an Arbitration Tribunal to hear disputes prior to debating selection criteria.

Appeals are directly reviewable by the United States Supreme Court and do not follow the usual path through the Provincial and Appellate Courts.

Article II, Section 6.B.1(b). Territories

Territories are not entitled to Senatorial representation.

Article II, Section 6.B.1(c). Tribal Senators

Collectively, the federally recognized Tribes send one Senator to the Senate. The various Tribes shall each send one representative to a Tribal Council, there to determine the manner in which the Senator is chosen. The Council may delegate its Senator in whatever manner that the People of the Tribes, as represented on the Council, choose. Nonetheless,

that method must be clearly stated and grounded in some form of democratic deliberation. The Tribal Council must convene at least every ten years.

The Tribes shall otherwise be governed by the same rules with respect to the Senate as apply to the States.

Article II, Section 6.B.2. Vacancy

If a seat in the Senate becomes vacant in the middle of a term, the same rules shall apply for filling it as apply in similar circumstances in the House of Representatives, as outlined in Article II, Section 5.D.3.

The sole difference between the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be that a special election in the Senate must follow the selection criteria developed by the Assembly of Counties for that State.

Article II, Section 6.C. Leadership Selection and Duties

At the start of each new Congress, the Senate elects a Leader and Deputy Leader. The Leader is chosen first.

To run for either role, a Senator must meet the rules for serving in the Senate and be eligible to serve as President or Vice President, in case they are ever needed in the line of succession. There are no other leadership positions in the Senate.

The Senate sets the procedures for the election, but the vote itself must be conducted by secret ballot.

The Leader of the Senate presides over the Senate and sets the legislative agenda, in accordance with the mandates of this Charter. They also assign committees and committee chairs. The Deputy Leader assists the Leader and assumes their duties in their absence or if they are incapacitated.

Article II, Section 6.D. Senate Procedures

Article II, Section 6.D.1. Deliberative Nature of the Senate

The Senate is a more deliberative body than the House of Representatives. Each Senator is entitled to speak a single time on any bill, the duration of their address is limited only by their physical ability to remain at the podium (or reasonable accommodation thereof in cases of disability) without taking breaks for biological necessity or rest. Procedural rules, with the sole exception of the one-minute adjournment between 12:00 a.m. and 12:01 a.m. to limit the extent of the legislative day, cannot be used to interrupt this address and permit, intentionally or otherwise, a means to circumvent the intent of this limitation. There is no filibuster.

Article II, Section 6.D.2. Requirement to Vote

Once all Senators have spoken or waived their right to do so, there must be a vote on any debated bill within twenty-four hours or at the end of seven days from being made public, whichever is later.

Article II, Section 6.D.3. Requirements for the Senatorial Agenda

Article II, Section 6.D.3(a). Introduction of Bills

Any Senator can introduce a bill in writing by presenting it to the Chamber Parliamentarian while the Senate is in session. Once a bill is introduced, the full text must be made public within twenty-four (24) hours.

Article II, Section 6.D.3(b). Mandatory Review Period

No bill can be voted on until it has been public for at least seven days, unless the Leader and Deputy Leader both agree there is a real emergency.

Article II, Section 6.D.3(c). Senate Leader Responsibilities for Introduced Bills

Scheduling bills for votes, referral to committee, and other procedural matters is the responsibility of the Senate Leader. If a properly introduced and published bill has not reached the floor within ninety (90) in-session days of introduction, the Senate Leader must publicly justify that omission. Every thirty (30) in-session days thereafter that the bill does not reach the floor, the Leader must rejustify that omission. All such justifications must be made at noon on a weekday in a public conference with the press and published in the Congressional Record.

For the purposes of this provision, reaching the floor is defined as beginning debate that will trigger the eventual requirement to vote.

Article II, Section 6.D.3(d). Dismissal of Bills

Any bill that is introduced without reaching the floor by the end of the annual session is withdrawn. Further consideration requires resubmission in a subsequent year.

Article II, Section 6.D.3(e). Voting Transparency

All final votes must be recorded and shared with the public, along with a short summary of what the bill does. Except for the selection of leadership and as otherwise explicitly authorized by this Charter, secret ballots are prohibited.

Article II, Section 6.D.4. Public Access and Senatorial Accountability

Each Senator must hold at least four public town halls or community meetings in their State every year. These meetings must be announced beforehand and open to everyone in the district.

Senators must keep an office in their State's Capital with staff who can answer questions, help people with government services, and listen to public concerns. In large States, the Senator may, with approval from the Senate Leader serving at the time of the request, establish other branch offices throughout their State for the same purpose.

Each Senator must also post their schedule, voting record, and their public speeches and addresses online in a way that is easy for people to find and understand.

Article II, Section 6.D.5. Impeachment Trials

Article II, Section 6.D.5(a). Inception of Trial for Impeachment

Once the Speaker of the House delivers to the Leader of the Senate a vote affirming Articles of Impeachment against any federal official, all other business of the Senate ceases. Every Senator will swear or affirm the following:

"I, (full legal name), solemnly swear (or affirm), that I will be an impartial judge in the matter of the trial for impeachment of (full legal name of the person being impeached) on the charge(s) of (basis of impeachment). I positively affirm that I understand the People of the United States have vested in me the authority to ensure our Republic's integrity. I will faithfully listen to the evidence and vote in the way the evidence and the laws require."

The Leader of the Senate will administer this Oath to all other Senators, and then the Deputy Leader will administer this Oath to the Leader.

Article II, Section 6.D.5(b). Presiding Officer

If the President of the United States is on trial, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will preside. In all other trials, the Leader of the Senate will preside unless they recuse themselves for a publicly disclosed cause, in which case, the Deputy Leader will preside. If the Deputy Leader similarly recuses themselves, the Senators will hold a secret ballot and choose a Presiding Officer for the trial.

Article II, Section 6.D.5(c). Evidentiary Rules and Adjudication

The Senate will choose the rules of evidence to be used in the trial in the open, with all votes public, and the Parliamentarian will judge whether those rules are applicable as evidence and testimony are presented. Any Senator may ask for clarification on the rules.

Article II, Section 6.D.5(d). Conviction or Exoneration

The threshold of conviction is two-thirds ($^2/_3$) of Senators voting. Votes and deliberations are conducted by secret ballot, but the Secretary of the Senate will record the votes and publicly disclose them on the fifth anniversary of the verdict's announcement.

A "guilty " verdict will result in the convicted person being immediately removed from office, but will not incur any criminal penalty. Nothing in this Charter prevents the Person in question from facing criminal prosecution once removed.

Article II, Section 7 – Required Federal Agencies

Article II, Section 7.A. Census Bureau

Article II, Section 7.A.1. Composition and Location

Congress shall establish the Census Bureau by law.

The Bureau shall operate within the Executive Branch.

Article II, Section 7.A.2. Mandate

It must conduct a decennial survey. That survey must accomplish the following goals:

- Enumerating the whole population of each state and Territory.
- Establishing percentiles for individual income from single-source employment of the federally recognized full-time workforce in the United States.

The decennial census must be conducted every ten years in the Census Year, which is the year ending in zero. The two types of data required by this section must be publicly available by January 2 of the year following the survey, that is, in years ending in one.

Article II, Section 7.A.3. Supplemental Duties

The Census Bureau may be directed by Congress to gather supplementary information in years other than the Census year. Supplementary information may not be gathered during the Census Year.

Article II, Section 7.A.4. Anti-Outsourcing Mandate

The Census Bureau cannot be outsourced.

Article II, Section 7.B. Postal Service

Congress shall establish the Postal Service by law. The Postal Service will be a civic institution with a mandate for universal delivery of letters and parcels at reasonable rates. Congress may attempt to recover some or all of the costs of operating the Postal Service, but it is neither required to be a profit center nor self-sufficient.

The Postal Service cannot be outsourced.

Article II, Section 8 – Local Engagement With Congress

Article II, Section 8.A. Subdistricts

Each Congressional District shall be subdivided as outlined in Article VI, Section 2.C of this Charter. Each of these subdivisions shall be referred to as a Subdistrict.

Article II, Section 8.B. Local Delegates

Article II, Section 8.B.1. Election and Eligibility

Each Subdistrict shall directly elect one independent Local Delegate. Local Delegates must be Citizens, residents of the Subdistrict, and be legally eligible to vote in federal elections.

Local Delegates are neither subordinate nor superior to the Representative for their District.

Article II, Section 8.B.2. Terms

They shall serve a term of two years, renewable up to three times, for a total allowable service of eight years across all terms. Terms shall align with the terms of Representatives. Vacancies mid-term shall be filled in the same manner as Representatives.

Article II, Section 8.B.3. Compensation and Required Infrastructure

Local Delegates work one continuous week of each month. They shall be paid monthly for their service at a rate equal to one-fourth of the mean individual income in the United States at the time of the most recent decennial census.

Each Local Delegate is entitled to one full-time administrative assistant and a small office located within the Subdistrict. If a Representative's local congressional office is within a Subdistrict, the Local Delegate's office may be located in the same physical plant, but staff may not be shared. The Local Delegate is wholly independent of the Representative.

Congress must provide funding for the Local Delegate, their assistant, and the office from its operating budget.

Article II, Section 8.B.4. Duties, Authority, and Responsibilities

Article II, Section 8.B.4(a) Limitation

Local Delegates shall have no legislative, regulatory, or oversight power under this Charter.

Local Delegates may only be removed from office via impeachment or as otherwise provided in this Charter.

Local Delegates are elected officials accountable to the constituents of their Subdistrict. No other official, elected or appointed, may interfere with a Local Delegate carrying out the mandated or authorized duties and responsibilities as outlined in this Charter. This does not confer criminal or civil immunity.

Article II, Section 8.B.4(b) Purpose of Office

The Local Delegate is the primary conduit for communication between the constituents of the Subdistrict and the Representative for the District. They shall do so by:

1. Hearing constituent concerns and relaying them to the Representative.

2. Reporting those concerns to the full Congress annually.
3. Reporting the actions and voting record of the Representative back to the constituents.
4. Facilitating constituent engagement meetings between the Representative and the constituents of the Subdistrict.

Nothing in this provision restricts a Representative from communicating directly with constituents.

Article II, Section 8.B.4(c). Explicit Duties

Article II, Section 8.B.4(c_1). Public Scheduling

The Local Delegate's schedule for workdays must be public. It must reflect the names of individuals with whom they are meeting, as recorded on voter rolls. Subjects may remain confidential. Delegates may not anonymize, obscure, or omit this information. Any meeting that does not meet these requirements is legally prohibited.

Article II, Section 8.B.4(c_2). Required and Allowed Constituent Meetings

Local Delegates are responsible for accepting meetings from voters who live in the Subdistrict. Voters may bring assistants to such meetings when necessary for reasonable accommodation of disability. Local Delegates are prohibited from accepting meetings from associations of any kind.

Article II, Section 8.B.4(c_3). Acceptance of Impeachment Petitions and Ethics Complaints

Constituents may submit impeachment petitions directly to their Representative, but they may also present them to their Local Delegate. When they do so, the Local Delegate must accept it and relay it to their Representative within twenty-four hours.

Similarly, constituents may submit Ethics Complaints against their Representative to the Local Delegate. In such cases, the Local Delegate must relay the complaint to the House Ethics Panel by the end of the next legislative day on which Congress is not adjourned.

Article II, Section 8.B.4(c_4). Periodic Reporting to the Representative

Each Local Delegate is required to present constituent concerns to their Representative quarterly. The Representative may additionally request a presentation summarizing this report.

A Delegate can request additional meetings with their Representative as needed. The Representative may accommodate other obligations, but must consider both their own and the Delegate's schedules. The Representative must provide an opportunity to meet within fifteen (15) legislative days. If three or more Delegates submit a joint request, the Representative must schedule a meeting within five (5) legislative days.

Meetings may be conducted in person or virtually, but all such meetings, including all remarks, documents, and other relevant material, must be a part of the public record.

Article II, Section 8.B.4(c_5). Constituent Engagement

Local Delegates are responsible for coordinating town halls or community meetings with the Representative, whether individually or with other Subdistricts, as required in Article II, Section 5.F.2.

If three or more Local Delegates object that the meetings are not accessible to their Subdistrict's constituents, the Representative must reschedule to accommodate their needs or schedule additional meetings. For this provision, "accessible to their Subdistrict" does not mean that the meeting must occur within the Subdistrict. It means that the meeting must not place an unreasonable burden on constituents to attend.

The rules and format of all constituent meetings are negotiated between the Local Delegates whose Subdistricts are affected. The Representative must comply with the format and rules.

Article II, Section 8.B.4(c_6). Reporting to the Constituency

Between ninety (90) and one hundred eighty (180) days before the end of each congressional term, the Local Delegate must hold no fewer than four public

meetings for constituents of the Subdistrict. These meetings must be held on various days of the week and multiple times of day.

At these meetings, the Local Delegate must report to constituents on their Representative's legislative record. This report shall include all bills sponsored or co-sponsored, all public votes, all authorized travel, and any major policy statements or speeches.

ARTICLE III – THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Article III, Section 1 – General Provisions of the Executive

The People delegate executive power to a President of the United States. Alongside the President, there is an assistant called the Vice President of the United States.

Article III, Section 1.A. Election and Qualifications

Article III, Section 1.A.1. Terms

The President and Vice President serve concurrent four-year terms, which can each be renewed once, and the total number of years permitted in each office is ten years, whether served consecutively or not.

Article III, Section 1.A.2. Election and Qualifications

Article III, Section 1.A.2(a). Election

The President and Vice President are elected independently from one another. Neither Congress nor any other body has the power to join the Presidential and Vice Presidential ballots in any way. A Presidential candidate may not declare a Vice Presidential running mate. Both offices are elected by a popular vote of the People, held during the usual Federal Election and settled by acceptance voting.

Article III, Section 1.A.2(b). Qualifications

Both the President and the Vice President must:

1. Be natural born Citizens, that is, they must be citizens by virtue of being born within the territory of the United States or to at least one parent who was a Citizen of the United States at the time of the candidate's birth;
2. Be at least thirty-five, and no older than sixty-five;
3. Not be a convicted felon, even if pardoned; and
4. Be a resident of the United States for fourteen years, at least ten of which must be contiguous to the beginning of their term of office.

Article III, Section 1.A.2(c). Loss of Office by Disqualification

If the President or Vice President becomes ineligible to hold office because one of these qualifications is no longer met, they are summarily removed from office, without the need for impeachment or other mechanism. Refusal to vacate the office under such circumstances constitutes Treason.

Article III, Section 1.A.3. Alternative Selection of the Vice President

In the event no candidate elects to run for the Vice Presidency, the following Officers shall assume the Vice Presidency, in order of priority and fitness for service.

1. The current or most recent Leader of the Senate
2. The current or most recent Speaker of the House of Representatives
3. The current or most recent Deputy Leader of the Senate
4. The current or most recent Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives

Article III, Section 1.B. Vacancies and Succession

Article III, Section 1.B.1. General Presidential Succession

If the President dies, resigns, is removed from office, or is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the Presidency, those powers and responsibilities pass to the Vice President. Dependent on other details of this provision, this may be a temporary or permanent transfer. Should the same circumstances extend to the Vice President, then succession descends to the Leader of the Senate, then to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Congress may designate succession beyond the Speaker, but must ensure that all Persons in the line of succession otherwise meet the qualifications and requirements of the Presidency.

Article III, Section 1.B.2. Vice Presidential Succession

If the Vice President resigns or is required to permanently assume the Presidency, or at any other time the office of the Vice Presidency shall become vacant, the Leader of the Senate will fill the Vice Presidency for the remainder of the existing term, resigning from the Senate, and the Senate will elect a new Leader according to the rules of that body.

If the President is temporarily incapacitated, the Vice President assumes the duties of the Presidency until the President can resume their regular duties.

Article III, Section 1.B.3. Incapacity

Article III, Section 1.B.3(a). Adjudication of Incapacity

A President or Vice President must be judged incapacitated any time they are under general anesthesia. Additionally, they may be so judged on a written and sworn declaration by two attending physicians in whose medical opinion the officeholder is unable to carry out the duties of the office.

Article III, Section 1.B.3(a_1). Declaration of Incapacity

A medical Declaration of Incapacity must be issued publicly and list the nature of the incapacity, with the identities of the two attending physicians so attesting. If the declaration indicates a permanent incapacity, the officeholder is removed from office.

Article III, Section 1.B.3(a_2). Declaration of Restored Capacity

In the case of temporary incapacity, the capacity shall be considered restored upon sworn issuance of a Declaration of Restored Capacity by two attending physicians. The Declaration must list the physicians' identities and clearly explain why and how the incapacity has been resolved.

Article III, Section 1.B.3(b). Attending Physicians

For the purposes of this provision, the two attending physicians shall consist of the principal's primary physician, if immediately available, and one other senior physician actively treating or assessing the principal for the condition causing the incapacity. If the

principal's primary physician is not immediately available, the second physician must be another senior physician similarly treating or assessing the principal.

Article III, Section 1.B.3(c). Refusal of Treatment and Periodic Examination

The President or Vice President in question is not permitted to deny treatment or assessment if injured, wounded, or apparently infirm. Additionally, these principals must undergo rigorous physical and cognitive evaluations in January and July, while in office, to assess their fitness to carry out the duties of office.

Article III, Section 1.B.4. Inability to Perform Duties

Outside of medical incapacity, the inability to perform duties is defined as circumstances that physically prevent the execution of official duties or conditions of duress.

Article III, Section 1.C. Assumption of Office

Article III, Section 1.C.1. General Assumption of Office

The President-elect becomes the President at 12:01 p.m. in the Nation's Capital on January 20th in the year following the Presidential election. The Vice President-elect takes office at the same time.

Article III, Section 1.C.2. Succession for Presidents and Vice Presidents-Elect

If either dies or becomes incapable of carrying out the duties of the office before taking office, the same succession rules apply as if they had died while serving, except that the Vice President-elect is the successor of the President-elect.

Article III, Section 1.C.3. Oath of Office

Before any Person permanently assumes the office of President or Vice President, they must swear or affirm:

> "I (full legal name) solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States (or Vice President), and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect, and defend the National Charter of the United States and remain true to its central tenet that the People are the Sovereign Power. I understand and affirm that I hold this office and exercise the powers, duties, and privileges it requires and grants only because the People have delegated those things to me."

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court must publicly administer this oath or affirmation. If the Chief Justice is unable to do so, the most senior Associate Justice shall do so, then the most senior Appellate Court Judge, as determined by tenure, then by age.

Article III, Section 2 – Duties of the President and Vice President

Article III, Section 2.A. Duties and Powers of the President

Article III, Section 2.A.1. Commander-in-Chief

The President is the Commander-in-Chief of all nationalized military forces in the United States. The office has the emergency power to immediately and actively engage the military in a defensive capacity to protect the People, territories, bases, embassies, consulates, and vessels of the United States in instances of credible and imminent military, terrorist, or cyber attacks.

All other use of military force requires that the President either:

1. In cases requiring immediate and covert action in the interest of National Security, inform a Use of Force Advisory Council, made up of the Vice President, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense, plus one additional Senator and one additional Representative, chosen by total tenure in Congress, then age, then alphabetical order of surname, of the need and intention to take action. The assembled Advisory Council must assent, by a three-quarters majority, to the use of military force. The minutes and votes of the meeting are classified, but must be recorded and released in full, according to the transparency provisions of this Charter, at the appropriate time, or sooner at the President's discretion; or

2. Receive a fully executed Declaration of War from Congress, or after an attack which creates a *de facto* State of War, both as outlined in Article II, Section 4.H of this Charter.

Under no circumstances may the President or other official of the United States command the Armed Forces of the United States to take action against the People, except as outlined in Article II, Section 4.H.1.

Article III, Section 2.A.2. Head of State

Article III, Section 2.A.2(a). Diplomatic Agreements

Article III, Section 2.A.2(a_1). Unilateral Authority for Cessation of Hostilities

The President shall have the unilateral power to make cease-fire agreements, armistices, and truces involving the immediate use of military force by the United States. The President may not unilaterally make any agreements on behalf of the United States, except for these three categories.

Article III, Section 2.A.2(a_2). Limits on Executive Agreements

There is no justification for any assumption that the President or anyone acting on their authority may make so-called Executive Agreements without consulting the Senate. Such agreements are unauthorized. Any such agreements in place at the time of ratification of this Charter remain in force and are considered binding Treaties in law.

Article III, Section 2.A.2(a_3). Treaties

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the President may also make treaties, provided two-thirds of the voting Senators consent. The President may withdraw from treaties, provided the treaty allows withdrawal, but only after receiving a two-thirds majority vote from the Senate to consent to the withdrawal.

To obtain advice on treaty negotiations, the President must notify the Leader of the Senate, who will convene a randomly chosen advisory group of five Senators. The group will confer confidentially with the President to define broad negotiation guidelines, which will be sealed and recorded. The Advisory Panel must be convened within two days of the President's notification and conclude its deliberations within four days.

After negotiation, the Senate shall receive the treaty text and the advisory guidelines, which must then be made public, unless classified. The Senate will then have twenty (20) days to review and vote. The President is not bound to follow the guidelines, but the full Senate may use them to evaluate the treaty.

For this Charter, a treaty is defined as any binding agreement between the United States and a foreign government or entity.

Article III, Section 2.A.2(b). Diplomatic Hosting, De Facto Recognition, and Formal Recognition

The President may receive ambassadors and other foreign diplomats and may recognize other governments, persons, or organizations with de facto or formal power. The President has the responsibility to declare whether such recognition implies legitimacy.

Article III, Section 2.A.2(c). General Diplomatic Authority

The President has the authority to conduct all other foreign affairs, including the positioning of military forces, imposing or lifting sanctions, and similar activity, unless otherwise explicitly limited by this Charter.

Article III, Section 2.A.3. Appointment, Removal, and Oversight of Executive Officers

Article III, Section 2.A.3(a). Definitions

Executive Authority means the power to direct an agency, Officer, or employee of the United States; to obligate federal funds as authorized by Congress; to implement or enforce law within the federal government; to supervise federal operations; or to exercise powers delegated by statute.

Presidential Officers are Officers who exercise Executive Authority delegated to them by the President and are not supervised by any Officer other than the President.

Subordinate Officers are Officers who exercise Executive Authority on behalf of a Presidential Officer or Ambassador who is their direct supervisor.

Article III, Section 2.A.3(b). Appointments

The President shall nominate all Presidential Officers, Ambassadors, Judges, or other Officers so designated by this Charter, subject to confirmation by the Senate. Congress may not compel the Presidential appointment of other Officers in statute.

At the beginning of any President's first term of office, within ten days of their inauguration, the President may nominate new members of the Cabinet and new Ambassadors, regardless of the continuity of service of currently serving members. Such a nomination serves as a summary dismissal of the previous Officer and shall not require the assent of the Senate. This power shall not extend to other Presidential Officers nor to any Judge.

Confirmation shall require a simple majority of Senators voting in favor, and appointment shall be final upon confirmation. Confirmation votes may only be carried out between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Nation's Capital.

Subordinate Officers must be appointed by the Presidential Officer or the Ambassador who supervises them. They shall be subject to the same confirmation process, procedures, and limitations as Presidential Officers.

The President may fill vacancies of Presidential Officers with acting Officials. Where no other limit is imposed, an acting appointment is valid for no more than ninety (90) days. Acting appointments shall automatically expire upon confirmation of a permanent Officer.

Article III, Section 2.A.3(c). Dismissals

The President may request the dismissal of a Presidential Officer by submitting a written justification for removal to the Senate. The Senate must approve the request by a simple majority of Senators voting.

Subordinate Officers may be dismissed for cause by the Ambassador or the Presidential Officer supervising them. The President may not dismiss a Subordinate Officer directly.

Ambassadors serve at the pleasure of the President.

Article III, Section 2.A.3(d). Expiration of Executive Offices

Presidential Officers and Ambassadors are presumed to remain in Office at the expiration of a Presidential term unless they resign or the Senate confirms a new, duly nominated Officer or Ambassador.

Subordinate Officers serve until they resign or are dismissed.

Article III, Section 2.A.3(e). Personal, Advisory, and White House Staff

The President may select their personal, advisory, and/or White House staff, which shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

No member of the President's personal, advisory, and/or White House staff may exercise Executive Authority or direct any officer or employee outside their staff. Neither may any of these individuals communicate outside the White House staff on matters of policy, except if: 1) They are communicating with a Presidential Officer at the written direction of the

President, or 2) They do so in the presence of the President. Any act done in violation of this Section is void and creates personal liability.

Article III, Section 2.A.4. Power to Issue Executive Orders

The President may issue executive orders, but only to the extent that they do not function to make law. In this context, "making law" means the creation of new legal obligations or rights, or the repeal of existing obligations or rights.

Article III, Section 2.A.5. Veto and Remand

The President may veto legislation from Congress, which in turn may override the veto with a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

Alternatively, the President may remand a bill to Congress with written recommendations for remedy. Congress must act within sixty (60) days. If it passes a revised bill, the President may veto it, but only with a written explanation of unconstitutionality or harm to Rights. If the President fails to sign or remand the bill within ten days, it becomes law. If Congress does not act within sixty days of remand, the bill is considered vetoed.

Article III, Section 2.A.6. Pardons and Commutations

The President shall have the power to issue pardons or to commute sentences for federal crimes, provided that:

1. No pardon or commutation is extended to the President or to their immediate family; and

2. No pardon or commutation may be issued for any offense for which charges have not been brought; and
3. No pardon or commutation is possible to nullify an impeachment.

Article III, Section 2.A.7. State of the Union Address

The President must deliver an annual State of the Union address each February, except during their inaugural year. The address shall be made to a joint session of Congress and transmitted to the People. The address shall be recorded and publicly accessible. When reporting on the state of affairs—including the Treasury and the military—the President must provide truthful and factual information. Sensitive details that could cause harm may be withheld, but the President shall not use misleading or false statements. The President is not limited to once a year and may deliver additional addresses as seems reasonable.

Article III, Section 2.A.8. Statutory Powers

The President may exercise other powers as granted by Congress, provided those powers do not infringe on the Rights of the People or violate, impede, infringe, or overrule the Powers granted to other branches of Government by this Charter.

Article III, Section 2.B. Duties and Powers of the Vice President

Article III, Section 2.B.1. Independence and Inclusion of the Vice President

The President must fully brief the Vice President on all matters of policy. The Vice President will have access to the meetings necessary to fulfill this role. The Vice President

is obligated to support the lawful policy goals and directives of the President, unless they believe those goals or policies to be unlawful.

If the Vice President believes that any Presidential order is unlawful, they are obligated to disobey that directive. They must submit a written objection stating the basis of their belief to the Leader of the Senate. That objection must be entered into the Congressional Record, subject to the usual rules regarding classified material.

Article III, Section 2.B.2. Senatorial Tie-Breaker

The Vice President shall not preside over the Senate but shall cast a vote in the case of a tie. The Vice President shall have no other legislative power or privilege.

Article III, Section 2.B.3. General Duties

The Vice President shall perform all duties expressly assigned under this Charter and may be delegated additional responsibilities by the President. Congress may assign duties or Powers to the Vice President, provided those powers do not infringe on the Rights of the People or violate, impede, infringe, or overrule the Powers granted to other branches of Government by this Charter.

Article III, Section 3 – The Cabinet

The President shall appoint the heads of all executive departments, who shall serve as Cabinet members. Among these departments, the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of Defense shall always be maintained. Other departments may only be created, preserved, or abolished by Congress through statute.

Cabinet members shall be Presidential Officers as outlined in this Charter.

In the event of a Cabinet vacancy, the President must nominate a qualified replacement within five (5) days of a vacancy.

Article III, Section 4 – Executive Limitations

Article III, Section 4.A. Non-Plenary and Non-Unitary Executive

Neither Congress nor any court shall construe the powers of the Executive Branch to extend beyond the explicit authorities granted by this Charter. The President must faithfully execute and respect the duties and limitations imposed by this Charter and the laws enacted in accordance with it.

There must be no understanding of any provision in any part of this Charter or in statute that would grant any official in the Executive Branch unitary or plenary powers.

Article III, Section 4.B. Severed from Congress

The President is expressly forbidden from convening, suspending, or adjourning Congress or any portion thereof.

Article III, Section 4.C. Failure of Duty

If the President refuses or otherwise fails to carry out any constitutional duty, any ten sitting members of Congress, regardless of chamber, may submit a formal complaint to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who must review the complaint within ten (10) days. If the Chief Justice finds clear and convincing evidence that the President has exceeded or abandoned their lawful role, they shall transmit a certification of that fact to the Speaker of the House. The Speaker must introduce Articles of Impeachment immediately upon receipt.

This referral does not presume guilt but constitutes an obligation to investigate and prosecute the matter if warranted.

Article III, Section 4.D. Limits of Executive Power and Preservation of Rights in States of Emergency

Article III, Section 4.D.1. Definition of Emergency

An emergency is defined as a temporary and urgent set of circumstances that requires exceptional action to preserve the Rights of the People or the ability of the Government to secure them.

Article III, Section 4.D.2. Authority to Declare a State of Emergency

The President can declare a State of Emergency if:

- Circumstances exist that meet the definition of an Emergency, and
- The Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House must agree with the President in writing. If either is incapacitated or otherwise unable to provide written assent or dissent, then their duty passes to their second, that is, the Vice Speaker of the House in place of the Speaker of the House or the Deputy Leader of the Senate in place of the Leader of the Senate.

Article III, Section 4.D.3. Limits to the Duration of a State of Emergency

A State of Emergency may last up to thirty (30) days but cannot be extended without a vote of two-thirds in both chambers of Congress in agreement. Only one ordinary extension may

be allowed and that extension can only be of an additional sixty (60) days duration at the maximum. Thus, according to this provision, the maximum duration of any individual State of Emergency, with an ordinary extension, is ninety (90) days.

If a longer period is required, the President must request a session of both Chambers of Congress, along with the Supreme Court, present and voting *en banc*, to detail why an extraordinary extension to the State of Emergency is required, and how the circumstances continue to meet the definition of Emergency. Once the President has made that case, the Supreme Court shall vote whether to assent, with a unanimous ruling required to accede. If the Supreme Court assents, both chambers of Congress must assent by two-thirds majority vote. The joint session may not be dismissed until all necessary votes are held, tallied, and recorded. If assent is given in this extraordinary circumstance, there may be a single additional period of ninety (90) days, after which time the State of Emergency must end, and no further Emergency may be declared for the same circumstances.

Article III, Section 4.D.4. Explicit Executive Emergency Power

During a State of Emergency, the President may redirect public funds, personnel, and facilities to address the imminent threats to life, safety, or to the Government's ability to secure the Rights of the People. During a State of Emergency, the President is also authorized to spend or borrow money without Congressional authorization, but only for matters that address the Emergency. This spending authority supersedes the usual limitations on debt and requirements for debt reduction. These powers may only be exercised provided that they do not infringe on the Rights or due process of the People.

Article III, Section 4.D.5. Non-Derogability of Rights in an Emergency

All rights are fully non-derogable, even during a State of Emergency.

ARTICLE IV – THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Article IV, Section 1 – Judicial Authority and Function

Article IV, Section 1.A. General Authority of the Courts

The Judicial Branch has the final authority to interpret and apply this Charter, including ruling on the constitutionality of lesser statutes. Its purpose is to protect the Rights of all Persons, ensure that the government remains within its lawful limits, and resolve disputes fairly, according to the principles in this Charter. The Courts derive their authority from the consent of the Citizens, and may use it only to uphold the Charter, defend the Sovereignty of the People, and ensure equal application of the law.

Article IV, Section 1.B. Military Courts-Martial

Military Courts-Martial, as established in law by Congress, are permitted within the Executive Branch. However, such courts are limited to matters relating to the conduct of members of the United States military or to Prisoners of War. Decisions and rulings by Military Courts-Martial are appealed to the Federal Provincial Appellate Court for Maryland. Detainees who are not members of the United States armed forces or do not meet the definitions of a Prisoner of War here and in international law, must be released or their cases remanded to the Federal District Courts. If the correct District Court is not clear, the District Court with jurisdiction over the District of Columbia shall have jurisdiction.

Article IV, Section 1.C. Ban on Courts Beyond the Judicial Branch

All other adjudicative matters, whether in tax, criminal law, administrative law, immigration law, or any other matter requiring adjudication, shall be decided by courts within the Judicial Branch.

No tribunal of any kind originating outside the Judicial Branch may issue legally binding judgments affecting the rights, status, or obligations of Persons, except as explicitly permitted in this Charter.

Article IV, Section 2 – Structure and Jurisdictions

Article IV, Section 2.A. Judicial Structure

Article IV, Section 2.A.1. General Structure of the Judiciary

The Judicial Branch consists of four levels:

- The United States Supreme Court (Supreme Court or SCOTUS);
- The Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal (Circuit Courts);
- The Federal Provincial Appellate Courts and the Territorial Provincial Court (Provincial Courts); and
- The several trial courts, which include:
    - The Court of International Trade (CIT);
    - The Federal District Courts (District Courts); and
    - The Federal Immigration Courts (Immigration Courts).

Each court exercises the authority granted to it by the Citizens via this Charter and by law.

All courts must remain within the limits of this Charter and are required to protect the Rights it guarantees.

Article IV, Section 2.A.2. Courts in United States Territories

Territorial District Courts shall be established as part of the Judicial Branch. Each Territory shall have one District Court, and all Territories combined shall share a single Territorial

Provincial Court. Appeals arising from the Territorial Provincial Court fall within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court for the region encompassing the National Capital.

Where this Charter refers to District Courts or Provincial Courts, it must be understood to include those for Territories, as well.

Article IV, Section 2.A.3. Courts for the National Capital

As an exception to the rule for Territorial Courts, and for as long as it remains a Federal District, Washington, D.C. shall be served by the Provincial Court for Maryland. Appeals arising from the Provincial Court fall within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court for the region encompassing the National Capital.

Article IV, Section 2.B. Jurisdiction of Courts

Article IV, Section 2.B.1. Federal Immigration Courts

In each congressional district, there shall be a Federal Immigration Court. These courts are equal in status and authority to the Federal District Court serving the same district.

Immigration Courts shall have original legal jurisdiction for all proceedings related to federal immigration law arising within their district. This includes, but need not be limited to, asylum hearings, visa adjudications, deportation proceedings, and other matters arising solely from immigration law.

All matters considered in an Immigration Court must follow the same laws, procedural rules, and evidentiary standards as any other court. All Persons, whether Citizens or not,

are entitled to the full array of Civil Rights granted by this Charter, even in matters involving immigration.

Article IV, Section 2.B.2. Federal District Courts

In each congressional district, there shall also be a Federal District Court with territorial jurisdiction for that district. Except where this Charter provides otherwise, the Federal District Courts have original legal jurisdiction over all federal civil and criminal cases. This includes constitutional claims, violations of federal law, and disputes between Persons or entities arising under this Charter or federal statutes.

District Courts may also:

- Review actions taken by federal agencies,
- Issue injunctive or declaratory relief,
- Hear petitions for habeas corpus, and
- Conduct preliminary hearings in cases where a higher court holds original jurisdiction, if requested to do so by the higher court.

The Court of Federal Claims is abolished in full. All matters previously considered by that court are now fully justiciable in the District Courts.

Each District Court must have at least one dedicated Tax Bench. These specialized benches shall be dedicated specifically to matters of Tax Law. They shall be staffed by judges with appropriate expertise, as provided by law.

The size and composition of each District Court, except as limited by this Charter, shall be established by law. Congress must ensure that each court is of sufficient size to handle the normal caseload for its jurisdiction.

Article IV, Section 2.B.3. Court of International Trade

There shall be a Court of International Trade, headquartered in New York City, which shall have original jurisdiction on all legal matters involving foreign trade into or from the United States. Appeals shall be sent to the Federal Provincial Appellate Court for New York, and further appeals shall proceed upward accordingly.

This Court shall be composed in the same manner as the Court of International Trade in effect at the time of ratification of this Charter. Congress must maintain this Court, but may change its size or structure as need requires.

Article IV, Section 2.B.4. Federal Provincial Appellate Courts and the Territorial Provincial Appellate Court

The Federal Provincial Courts serve as the first level of federal appellate review. These courts hear appeals from District Courts within their assigned regions.

Provincial Courts may:

- Review how law and procedure were applied in the original trial,
- Affirm, reverse, or remand cases for further proceedings.

They may not conduct new trials or reexamine findings of fact, except where a procedural error or a clear violation of Rights undermined the fairness of the original trial. Even in those circumstances, they may declare a mistrial, but may not conduct a new or supplementary trial, themselves.

Provincial Courts may also hear additional matters assigned by law, so long as those duties are consistent with this Charter.

Each State shall have one Provincial Court with jurisdiction over appeals from the District Courts located in that State. The Territorial Provincial Court shall hear cases arising in any of the other Territories of the United States, except where otherwise provided for in this Charter. The Territorial Provincial Court shall maintain courtroom facilities in each Territory. Existing District Court facilities may be used as needed.

Article IV, Section 2.B.5. Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal

Circuit Courts of Appeal serve as the second level of federal appellate review.

There shall be twelve regional circuits and a Federal Circuit. The regional circuits shall have territorial jurisdiction over their regions as defined below, while the Federal Circuit shall have special jurisdiction for matters for which it had jurisdiction at the time this Charter was ratified and additional matters as later prescribed by law.

Congress shall define the number of judges for each circuit in law, but no circuit may have fewer than six seats, and the number of seats on any circuit must be divisible by three.

Circuit courts consider cases in panels of three judges, unless the court, as a whole, agrees to hear a case *en banc* or is instructed to do so by the Supreme Court in a remand order.

Circuit Courts are responsible for:

- Ensuring uniform interpretation of law across the nation,
- Reviewing constitutional questions, legal standards, and procedural fairness,
- Resolving conflicting rulings between different Provincial Courts,
- Affirming, reversing, or remanding cases to the Provincial Courts.

Circuit Courts have appellate discretion and may grant certiorari. A grant of certiorari requires at least two judges on the court to agree to consider an appeal. If the court agrees to hear an appeal, it decides whether to consider the appeal *en banc* or by panel. If the court declines to consider a case *en banc*, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts will randomly assign three of the judges on the court to a panel to consider the case.

Article IV, Section 2.B.5(a). Circuit Court Citizen Commissions

Apolitical commissions shall be used to review the boundaries of the Circuit Courts of Appeal. These review commissions shall convene five years after each decennial census and may only be convened at that time.

The commission shall consist of:

- Two (2) members selected by the Judicial Nomination Board,
- Two (2) members selected by the Federal Licensing Authority, and
- Three (3) Citizens selected at random in a manner prescribed by Congress.

No citizen member of a commission may currently hold elected or appointed federal office or have done so within the past six years. All members, including those from the judicial agencies, must be adult Citizens and must not have been convicted of a felony at the time of selection.

Failure to participate in a commission may be considered partial grounds for the charge of Failure to Fulfill a Civic Duty.

Each Circuit must include at least three (3) States, and no Circuit may divide a single State. The Circuit Court in whose region Maryland is located shall also serve the territories, including the District of Columbia.

Recommendations must be approved by a majority vote of the commission and submitted to Congress. Congress must vote, by simple majority in both chambers, to either accept or reject the proposal without amendment. If Congress does not act within ninety (90) days, the recommended boundaries shall take effect by default at the start of the next Judicial Year. If Congress rejects the recommendations, a new commission is formed, and the process repeats.

Article IV, Section 2.B.6. The Supreme Court

Article IV, Section 2.B.6(a). Court Composition

The Supreme Court shall consist of nine (9) Justices, the most senior of whom, as defined in Article IV, Section 3.A.2, shall be the Chief Justice and the others Associate Justices. The

Court shall sit *en banc* and may only do so provided no more than two (2) Justices are absent.

Article IV, Section 2.B.6(b). Role and Jurisdictions

The Supreme Court is the highest Court in the United States. It has final authority over all constitutional matters and serves as the ultimate appellate forum for decisions made by lower federal courts. It also holds original and exclusive jurisdiction over cases between two or more States, between a State and the Federal Government, in unresolved Legislative Rule disputes, or in cases between the Executive and Legislative Branches of the Federal Government.

Article IV, Section 2.B.6(c). Original Jurisdiction Mechanism

In such original jurisdiction cases, a group of Circuit Court judges shall be randomly selected to join the hearing. The number of these judges must be one fewer than the number of Supreme Court Justices participating. All judges—Supreme and Circuit—shall hear the case, review the facts, and vote. The votes of the Circuit judges shall be recorded and shared with the Supreme Court Justices, but shall remain confidential unless an appeal is filed.

The final ruling shall be determined solely by the votes of the Supreme Court Justices—unless the losing party files an appeal within ninety-six (96) hours. If such an appeal is filed, the votes of all participating judges, including Circuit judges, shall be unsealed and counted together. That outcome is final and shall be treated as the decision of the Supreme Court.

This special procedure applies only to cases where the Supreme Court exercises original jurisdiction. It does not apply to appeals from lower courts, which follow the standard procedures set forth by this Charter and by law.

Article IV, Section 2.B.6(d). Appellate Discretion

The Supreme Court possesses appellate discretion. The Court shall grant *certiorari* when any four justices agree to consider an appeal. If *certiorari* is not granted within forty-five (45) days of appeal, the appeal is considered denied, and the ruling of the originating court stands.

Article IV, Section 2.B.7. Prohibition Against Judicial Self-Volition

The Courts of the United States at all levels are prohibited from compelling testimony, issuing injunctive or declarative relief, or issuing decisions or rulings of their own volition. To that end, they may take such actions only in cases brought before them by other parties with standing.

Article IV, Section 2.C. The Judicial Year

The Judicial Year shall begin on October 1 and end on September 30 of the following year.

Judicial terms defined in this Charter begin on the first day and expire on the last day of the appropriate Judicial year. The starting date may vary when filling vacancies mid-term, but the ending dates are fixed.

Article IV, Section 3 – General Provisions of the Judiciary

Article IV, Section 3.A. Judicial Terms

Federal Judges may not be reappointed to the same level or a lower level of court within the Judicial Branch after their term ends.

Article IV, Section 3.A.1. Term Limits for Federal Judges

Magistrate Judges serve until they resign, retire, or are dismissed.

Federal and Territorial District Court, Court of International Trade, Federal and Territorial Provincial Appellate Court, and Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal Judges shall each serve a single non-renewable term of six (6) years.

In all of these Courts, a partial term counts as a full term, and the Judge so serving shall be reckoned as if they had served the full six years concerning eligibility for other Courts, as long as they served at least eighteen (18) months.

Nothing in this clause prevents a Judge from being considered for appointment to a higher court, as long as they meet the qualifications for that Court.

Article IV, Section 3.A.2. Term Limits for Supreme Court Justices

Supreme Court Justices shall serve a single non-renewable term of eighteen (18) years. One new Justice shall be appointed every two years.

If a Justice is appointed to fill a vacancy mid-term, they shall serve only the remainder of that term and may not be reappointed.

The Associate Justice with the longest continuous service on the Supreme Court shall become the Chief Justice upon the Chief Justice's departure from the Court. Where seniority is in question between Associate Justices, that seniority descends based on their time on the Supreme Court.

Article IV, Section 3.B. Qualifications

All Magistrates and Judges must meet specific qualifications before taking office. These qualifications must be satisfied at the time of nomination and maintained throughout the Judge's term.

A candidate or nominee must:

- Be licensed and in good standing with the Federal Licensing Authority,
- Not have been disbarred or barred from holding federal office,
- Not have been convicted of a felony, or
- Not have been removed from judicial office for cause.

Minimum experience requirements:

- **Magistrate Judges:** At least three (3) years of legal experience in the federal court system.
- **Immigration Court Judges:** At least five (5) years of legal experience in immigration law.

- **District Court Judges:** At least five (5) years of legal experience in the federal court system. For tax specialists, the minimum requirement is five (5) years of experience with tax law.
- **Court of International Trade Judges:** At least five (5) years of legal experience, with specialization in international trade law.
- **Provincial Court Judges:** At least eleven (11) years of combined federal-level experience in legal practice, service as a District Court Judge, or full-time faculty employment at a U.S.-accredited law school. Legal academics must also demonstrate sustained engagement with the federal courts, including authorship of amicus curiae briefs in constitutional or appellate matters.
- **Circuit Court Judges:** Must have completed a full term of service on a Provincial Court.
- **Supreme Court Justices:** Must have served at least three (3) years on the Circuit Court.

A nominee who has not served on the Circuit Court may still be eligible for the Supreme Court if they meet all the following:

1. At least twenty (20) years of experience in constitutional litigation, legal scholarship (as defined in the qualifications for the Provincial Courts), or federal appellate practice;
2. Personal argument of at least three (3) constitutional cases before a U.S. Circuit Court or the Supreme Court; and

3. Has been cited in at least two (2) published majority opinions from a U.S. Circuit Court or the Supreme Court.

Article IV, Section 3.C. Appointment and Confirmation

Article IV, Section 3.C.1. Nomination

The President must nominate each Justice of the Supreme Court and each Judge of the Circuit, Provincial, Court of International Trade, District, and Immigration Courts when a term ends or a seat becomes empty. Predictable vacancies can be pre-nominated up to forty-five (45) days in advance of the scheduled vacancy. In those cases, a nominee who is confirmed in advance shall take office on the first day of vacancy. All other vacancies require a nomination within five (5) days of a vacancy.

Any nominee must come from the list of candidates provided for that level of court by the Judicial Nomination Board. The President must send the nomination in writing to the Leader of the Senate.

Article IV, Section 3.C.2. Confirmation

Within thirty (30) days of receiving the nomination, the Senate must hold a single yes-or-no vote on the nominee. A simple majority of Senators present and voting is sufficient to confirm.

Article IV, Section 3.C.3. Term Commencement

If confirmed, the nominee's term will begin at 8:01 a.m. local time in the Nation's capital on the first day of the Judicial year or the first day after the Senate confirmation vote, whichever is earlier.

Alternatively, if the appointment was made and confirmed before the bench became vacant, the nominee's term begins on the first day of the vacancy.

Article IV, Section 3.C.4. Deferral of Duties

If the nominee is already a Judge on a lower court, they may choose to delay starting their new duties for up to sixty (60) days to complete or hand off any work still in progress. Even if they delay starting their new responsibilities, their term still begins at the time specified in Article IV, Section 3.C.3.

Article IV, Section 3.C.5. Continuation of Appointment Process

If the Senate does not confirm the nominee, the President must pick another candidate from the current list within five (5) days. This process will repeat until the vacancy is filled with a confirmed nominee.

Article IV, Section 3.D. Vacancies and Partial Terms

Article IV, Section 3.D.1. Causes of Vacancy

A judge's bench becomes vacant when:

- Their term ends,
- They die,
- They resign by notifying the Chief Justice, or in the case of the Chief Justice, notifying the President,
- They are removed for misconduct under the rules in this Charter,
- A senior Justice of the Supreme Court provides a notification that the judge or justice in question has been found medically incapable as provided for in Article IV, Section 3.H.2.

Article IV, Section 3.D.2. Length of Service After Mid-Term Appointment

Article IV, Section 3.D.2(a). Supreme Court

When an individual is appointed to fill an open seat on the Supreme Court, they only serve the time left in that term. After that, they can't be nominated to the Supreme Court again.

Article IV, Section 3.D.2(b). Circuit, Provincial, District, Court of International Trade, and Immigration Courts

A judge appointed to fill a vacancy on a Circuit, Provincial, District, the Court of International Trade, or an Immigration Court shall serve only the remainder of the original term.

Article IV, Section 3.D.3. Temporary Cross-Designation

In all courts below the Supreme Court, if a seat is empty and waiting to be filled, it will be temporarily filled by a judge randomly chosen from current or qualified retired judges at

the same level of court. The temporary judge's own job, duties, and term limit do not change. They serve only until the confirmed replacement takes office.

Article IV, Section 3.E. Magistrate Judges – Appointment, Term, and Duties

Each District, Immigration, Provincial, and Circuit Court may hire, with the approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Magistrate Judges to assist in non-trial duties, under procedures established by law.

Magistrate Judges are employees of their respective courts, not constitutional officers. They may issue binding pre-trial rulings and hear procedural motions under the supervision of a Federal Judge, but may not preside over trials.

Article IV, Section 3.F. Judicial Pay and Compensation

Judicial compensation shall be based on individual income levels as reported in the most recent decennial census, according to the following percentiles:

1. All Federal Judges below the Supreme Court — 92nd percentile;
2. Associate Justices of the Supreme Court — 93rd percentile;
3. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court — 130% of the Associate Justice rate.

These salaries must be updated after each decennial census.

All pay rules in this section are self-executing and not subject to Congressional approval. Pay rules take effect at the beginning of the Judicial Year following the decennial census.

Article IV, Section 3.G. Judicial Removal and Discipline

Article IV, Section 3.G.1. Felony

Any judge or justice who is convicted of a felony, whether under federal law or the law of any State or Territory, shall be removed from office automatically. This removal shall take effect upon the completion of any appeals or upon reaching the deadline for filing an appeal, whichever is later.

This provision must be construed as a separate mechanism from impeachment for felonious conduct, which may be pursued concurrently for the same conduct.

Article IV, Section 3.G.2. Incapacity

If a judge or justice is suspected of having a physical, cognitive, or mental condition that renders them permanently unable to carry out their duties, a private affidavit, signed by any combination of at least two (2) members of the same court or lawyers who have argued in that court within three (3) months of the date of affidavit, may be submitted to the Federal Licensing Authority (FLA). The affidavit shall remain confidential.

Upon receipt, the FLA shall initiate two independent medical evaluations. If both evaluations confirm that the judge suffers from physical, cognitive, or mental decline that materially impairs their ability to perform, the FLA shall certify the findings in writing and provide that certification to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC). The AOUSC must relay the certification to the most senior Justice of the Supreme Court not

directly involved in the matter. Within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving that certification, the Justice must issue a public notification of removal for medical incapacity.

Automatically, upon issuance of the public notification, the judge or justice in question is removed from office.

If the judge or justice in question refuses medical evaluation, that refusal must be made in writing and constitutes their permanent and immediate resignation from office.

The FLA shall retain all related records for ten (10) years before releasing them to the public.

Article IV, Section 3.G.3. Impeachment

Federal Judges and Justices may be impeached in the House of Representatives for felonious lawbreaking or for willful violations or attempts at violations of this Charter, and tried on that basis in the Senate.

Article IV, Section 3.G.4. Ethical and Professional Complaints

Article IV, Section 3.G.4(a). Judicial Disciplinary Code

Congress must establish a Judicial Disciplinary Code within one (1) year of the ratification of this Charter. This Code must detail minimum legal expectations of ethical conduct from Federal Judges and Justices. It must address requirements for recusal due to conflicts of interest, rules regarding the legality of accepting personal and professional gifts, reporting requirements for those gifts, and other ethical matters that Congress deems necessary.

Congress may alter the provisions of the Code. No such alteration shall take effect until the end of the second Judicial Year following the adoption of the modifications into law. This provision does not override the prohibition against *ex post facto* laws.

Article IV, Section 3.G.4(b). Judicial Ethics Complaints

Article IV, Section 3.G.4(b_1). Complaint Submission

Complaints of violations of the Judicial Disciplinary Code must be filed with the Federal Licensing Authority (FLA) within six (6) months of the alleged behavior by one or more persons with personal or documentary knowledge of it.

Complaints must be sworn affidavits. Upon submission, the FLA must issue a receipt of the complaint, including the identities of the complainant and the accused, along with citation of the alleged behavior, though particulars of the case shall not be disclosed. This receipt is immediately part of the public record.

The Federal Licensing Authority shall route the complaint to the appropriate body, depending upon the office held by the defendant. For Judges on the Circuit Courts or Justices of the Supreme Court, the complaint must be routed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. For all other Federal Judges, the complaint must be routed to the Administrative Offices of the United States Courts. In either case, the complaint must be routed to the correct body within ninety-six (96) hours of receipt by the Federal Licensing Authority.

Article IV, Section 3.G.4(b_2). Initial Review of Complaint

For Circuit Judges and Justices of the Supreme Court, the Speaker of the House of Representatives must direct the Chamber Parliamentarian to empanel at random three Members of the House, not to include themselves or the Vice Speaker, to serve on the Review Panel.

For all other Federal Judges, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts must randomly assign three District Court Judges who are absent of conflicts of interest to serve on the Review Panel.

The Review Panel must render an opinion, by public agreement of at least two members, whether Probable Cause exists to believe a violation of the Judicial Disciplinary Code has occurred. If that opinion holds that it does exist, the matter shall proceed to an Ethics Trial. The Review Panel must render its opinion within thirty (30) days of receiving the complaint. For the purposes of this timing, receipt of the complaint is measured from the time of the Panel's selection.

Article IV, Section 3.G.4(b_3). Ethics Trials

For Circuit Judges and Justices of the Supreme Court, the Review Panel must transmit its findings to the Chamber Parliamentarian of the Senate. If it is found that Probable Cause exists, the Chamber Parliamentarian must, within seven (7) days, select twelve (12) Senators at random, not including the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Senate. These Senators must choose one of their number to serve as the presiding member. The Ethics Trial shall be tried by these twelve Senators.

For all other Federal Judges, the Review Panel must transmit its findings to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC). If it is found that Probable Cause exists, the AOUSC must, within seven (7) days, designate a Federal District Court that is not affiliated with the accused jurist, which shall serve as the venue for the Ethics Trial, which must be conducted in the same manner as any other trial.

Ethics Trials must commence within sixty (60) days of a finding of Probable Cause by the Review Panel.

If the Senators or jury unanimously agree that the Preponderance of the Evidence supports a guilty verdict, they shall decide the sanction for the ethics violation. Suitable sanctions may include:

1. Vacature of rulings or orders affected or apparently affected by the unethical behavior, accompanied by formal censure or removal from office;
2. Formal censure alone; or
3. Removal from office.

Any individual having once been censured may not be censured again, but must be removed from office.

Article IV, Section 3.H. Oaths of Office

Before taking office in all federal courts, every Judge or Justice must swear or affirm a public oath. No judge may begin any official duties or receive compensation until this oath is taken.

Article IV, Section 3.H.1. Lower Courts

For all courts below the Supreme Court, the following oath must be given:

"I, [full legal name], solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the National Charter and the laws of the United States. I understand that I have no personal right to this power—it comes from the Citizens, through their elected President and Senate.

"I will support and defend this Charter because its purpose is to protect the Rights of all Persons in the United States, as required by this Charter. I will apply the law fairly and equally to every Person. I will serve on the [name of court] with honesty and without favoritism, bias, or corruption.

"I accept my unwaivable duty to recuse myself in any case where a conflict of interest exists or appears to exist. I agree to abide by the requirements of the Judicial Disciplinary Code."

Article IV, Section 3.H.2. Supreme Court

For newly confirmed justices to the Supreme Court, the same oath must be executed as for the lower Courts, appended as follows:

"I accept that the Supreme Court is the highest court in the land, and that serving on it is the most solemn and weighty responsibility in the Judicial Branch. I understand that this position carries a

greater burden than service on the lower courts and demands an even deeper commitment to the defense of Natural and Civil Rights over the powers of the State."

Article IV, Section 4 - Standing

Every Person or Class has standing to bring a claim before the courts of the United States alleging a violation of their Rights under this Charter, a breach of a constitutional obligation, or a failure to perform a Civic Duty, so long as the claim presents a real, imminent, or prospective harm that is traceable to a specific act, omission, or policy of the Government or its agents.

This Section shall be interpreted in light of the following principles:

- A harm is **real** if it has already occurred or is ongoing.
- A harm is **imminent** if:
    - The challenged conduct is reasonably foreseeable and likely to occur, *and*
    - The challenged conduct is expected to take place in the immediate or near future.
- A harm is **prospective** if:
    - The challenged conduct is authorized, planned, or reasonably foreseeable under existing law, policy, or practice, *and*
    - The Claimant or Class faces a realistic possibility of being subjected to it, even if the probability is not high. 'Realistic possibility' means the harm could apply to the Claimant or Class under the ordinary operation of the law or policy in question.

- A harm is not rendered **speculative** merely because it is widely shared, systemic in nature, or affects the public at large. A speculative harm is any harm that does not meet the definitions of real, imminent, or prospective harm listed above.

Article IV, Section 4.A. Personal Standing

A Person has personal standing when they:

1. Are directly and individually affected by the challenged action or policy; *or*
2. Face a realistic risk of being affected if the action or policy continues; *and*
3. Seek relief that would redress or mitigate the harm.

Article IV, Section 4.B. Civic Standing

Any Citizen may bring a claim in the public interest if :

1. The claim alleges a violation of a constitutional obligation, a Charter-mandated transparency or process requirement, or a failure to uphold an Official Duty;
2. The alleged failure affects the Citizen in their capacity as a co-sovereign; and
3. No adequate alternative remedy exists.

The relief sought must be within the court's power to grant.

The widespread or collective nature of the harm does not preclude standing.

Article IV, Section 4.B.1. Mandatory Preliminary Review

Any claim brought that depends upon Civic Standing shall receive a preliminary review by the court within ten (10) days of filing. The reviewing judge shall issue a ruling determining whether the claim may proceed based on the requirements of this Section. This ruling shall be public and subject to appeal only on procedural grounds.

Article IV, Section 4.B.2. Penalty for Abuse

Whenever at least two claims relying on Civic Standing from the same litigant or litigants are rejected in the Mandatory Preliminary Review within any two-year period, the litigant(s) shall be subject to a mandatory civil penalty. That penalty shall equal one-half of:

- Gross income in the case of Persons, or
- Gross revenue in the case of Institutions,

As received or realized the previous year, regardless of source.

This penalty is attachable and, if not otherwise collectible by the court, shall be recovered through attachment of present or future assets, including income, until paid in full.

A panel of three independent auditors shall determine income utilizing Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP).

Different stakeholders shall appoint the panel's three members:

- One appointed by the Court;
- One appointed by the claimant; *and*

- One appointed by the respondent. If the respondent is a government body, the third auditor shall be appointed by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

If no consensus can be reached between the three panelists, an average of their estimates shall be used.

Penalties under this provision are enforceable as final civil judgments. They shall not be considered excessive, having been expressly defined and authorized within this Charter as necessary to safeguard the integrity of public-interest litigation.

Article IV, Section 4.C. Institutional Standing

An organization has standing to bring a claim on behalf of its members if:

1. At least one member has standing under this Section;
2. The claim is germane to the organization's mission and purpose; *and*
3. The relief requested does not require individual participation of members beyond what is necessary to establish the claim.

Article IV, Section 4.D. Defensive Standing

Only a Person or institution directly responsible for enforcing a law, regulation, or policy, or serving as counsel for such a party, may defend its constitutionality. This provision must not be interpreted as outlawing *amicus curiae* briefs filed on behalf of the law's constitutionality, but those briefs cannot stand in as *de facto* counsel or representation.

Article IV, Section 5 - Interpretation

The State exists to secure the Rights of the People. The Courts do not exist for their own sake, nor are they permitted to override those Rights.

Article IV, Section 5.A. Interpretational Precedence

In all judicial proceedings, the following sources of law shall apply, in this order of authority:

1. This Charter, including the Rights enumerated in Article I, prevails over all other sources in the event of conflict.
2. Case law interpreting this Charter, the Articles of Confederation, or the Constitution of 1789, but only to the extent it is consistent with this Charter.
3. Treaties duly ratified by the United States.
4. Federal Statutes enacted under the authority of this Charter.
5. Case law interpreting such statutes.
6. Regulations issued pursuant to a statutory mandate.
7. Executive Orders.
8. Regulations issued solely under the authority of Executive Order or other Executive instrument.

State law exists outside of this hierarchy. When state and federal law are in conflict, federal law prevails.

Article IV, Section 5.B. Interpretational Rubric

Article IV, Section 5.B.1 Rights Presumption

Courts must interpret this Charter with a presumption in favor of Rights.

Article IV, Section 5.B.2. Conflicting Rights

When conflict between Rights creates a controversy, the Courts must try to find a resolution that retains the Rights of all parties. Only when that proves impossible, the Court may restrict the Rights of one or more parties, provided that any such restriction is narrowly tailored and recognizes that the State has no legitimate interest beyond securing the Rights of the People:

- Serves an otherwise Rights-protective purpose, and
- Be executed using the least restrictive means available, and
- Be ordered with a defined and limited duration, if possible.

In these cases, the burden shall rest on the government or claimant to justify any legal classification, restriction, or distinction. That justification must be:

1. Strictly necessary to prevent infringement of the Rights of one or more other Persons, and
2. Based on real need, not speculation, ideology, or administrative ease, and
3. Based on verifiable evidence, not mere assertion, and
4. Grounded in the principles of this Charter, and
5. Free from arbitrariness, political motivation, or discriminatory effect.

Article IV, Section 5.B.3. Structural Harm

Courts must consider structural harm when evaluating alleged violations of Rights. Animus need not be shown—only a consistent pattern of disproportionate harm to an identifiable group.

Article IV, Section 6 – Administrative Departments of the Judiciary

Article IV, Section 6.A. Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC)

There shall be an Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC) to do administrative and support work for the courts. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints the Director and Deputy Director. Either may be removed by the Chief Justice, but only with at least four Associate Justices assenting.

The AOUSC will provide administrative support to the federal courts as provided by law.

Article IV, Section 6.B. Federal Licensing Authority (FLA)

There shall be a Federal Licensing Authority within the Judicial Branch responsible for maintaining professional and ethical standards among Federal Judges and attorneys.

The Authority will be governed by a board composed of Federal Judges and public representatives. There shall be nine members, including the Presiding Member, who shall maintain order in meetings. The Presiding Member only votes to break a tie. The Governing Board shall be composed as follows:

- The Presiding Member shall always be the second most senior Federal Judge on the Circuit Courts, as determined by total tenure in the Federal Judiciary, with age serving as the tie-breaker, if necessary.

- There shall be four members who are Federal Judges of either the Provincial or Circuit Courts. Each shall be selected at random by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC) and shall serve for one year.
- There shall be four members who are attorneys practicing or teaching law at the federal level. Each serves a staggered four-year term with one term expiring each year.
- Any sitting Federal Judge may recommend an attorney or law professor for nomination, provided that the recommendation is made in writing and endorsed by the individual in question.
- The Chief Justice shall nominate each attorney or professorial appointee, and a quorum of the Supreme Court shall confirm the nominee.

The Federal Licensing Authority shall:

- License and oversee professional standards for Federal Judges and attorneys.
- Review complaints regarding professional misconduct.
- Refer substantiated complaints for disciplinary action as provided by this Charter.

The Authority shall not interfere with ongoing judicial proceedings or exercise judicial functions.

Article IV, Section 6.C. Judicial Nomination Board (JNB)

There shall be a Judicial Nomination Board to identify and approve qualified candidates for appointment to the Federal Courts of the United States. The Board serves as an

independent body to ensure that judicial nominations are based on merit, integrity, and constitutional eligibility, free from political influence.

The Board shall consist of nine (9) members, as follows:

- Three retired Federal Judges, appointed by the three most senior Associate Justices of the Supreme Court at the time of selection. A majority vote of the sitting judges of the Circuit Courts of Appeal must approve these appointments. If a seat is vacated mid-term, the Chief Justice shall appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.
- Three licensed federal attorneys, selected by the American Bar Association or another similar national institution as designated by statute. If no institution is designated, the Chief Justice shall choose the nominees, subject to the same ratification scheme as for the former judges.
- Three public representative Citizens, with no legal or judicial affiliation, shall be selected via civic lottery.

Membership is compulsory for all selected individuals. Members shall serve equal terms, and any mid-term replacement shall serve only the remainder of the original term. A new Board shall be selected in each even-numbered year that does not coincide with a Presidential election year.

The Judicial Nomination Board shall maintain and regularly update lists of eligible candidates for appointment to each level of the federal judiciary. Each list shall have at least three (3) potential candidates and as many as twenty (20). These lists shall be

transmitted to the President as required under this Charter. The Board may develop rules and criteria, consistent with this Charter, to guide its evaluation of candidates.

Board members shall be compensated at the salary of a Federal Judge, prorated according to the number of days the Board is active in a given year.

Article IV, Section 6.D. Judicial Enforcement Service (JES)

A government that guarantees Rights must possess the ability to enforce them. There shall be a Judicial Enforcement Service (JES) to enable the courts of the United States to carry out their lawful orders and protect the Rights of the People without relying on the Executive Branch. This Service is necessary to preserve the independence of the Judiciary, ensure access to justice, and uphold the constitutional limits on government power. It belongs solely to the Judicial Branch. Congress shall have oversight authority via any committee with jurisdiction over the Judiciary. The Executive Branch has no authority over the JES whatsoever.

Article IV, Section 6.D.1. Leadership and Oversight

Article IV, Section 6.D.1(a). Director

The Judicial Enforcement Service (JES) is led by a Director of Judicial Enforcement, who is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and confirmed by the Senate within sixty (60) days of nomination. The Director may be removed by the Chief Justice only for cause, which must be stated in writing. The Director may be impeached in the same manner as other senior federal officials.

Article IV, Section 6.D.1(b). Inspector General

There shall also be an Inspector General, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who may only be removed for cause. They are subject to impeachment. The Inspector General will have full subpoena power to investigate any allegations of misconduct perpetrated by JES officers. The Inspector General serves a single, non-renewable term of six years.

Article IV, Section 6.D.2. Structure

The JES shall be composed of three divisions, each led by a Division Commander. The Director appoints Division Commanders to renewable four-year terms. Each Division Commander delegates authority to officers as necessary to ensure order and discipline among the division's Deputies. Officers are promoted from the ranks of the Deputies.

Article IV, Section 6.D.2(a). Security Division

There shall be a Security Division, responsible for transporting detained individuals to and from court, maintaining courtroom and courthouse safety, and ensuring physical protection for court officers, judges, witnesses, and others under judicial protection.

Article IV, Section 6.D.2(b). Detention Division

There shall be a Detention Division, responsible for operating secure detention facilities in reasonable proximity to the courts. The division shall oversee the humane detention and care of individuals held under judicial authority, observing and preserving the Rights guaranteed by this Charter.

Article IV, Section 6.D.2(c). Observation Division

There shall be an Observation Division, responsible for monitoring compliance with judicial injunctions and procedural directives. The Observation Division shall not have investigative authority. It may act only under direct, written instructions from a judge or panel of judges.

If a Federal Judge issues a contempt order, a written, signed arrest warrant shall be forwarded to the Observation Division to arrest the individual(s) held in contempt and remand them to the Detention Division.

Article IV, Section 6.D.3. Limitations of the Judicial Enforcement Service

The Judicial Enforcement Service shall not carry out general law enforcement. It exists to protect the integrity of the Judicial Branch and the Rights of those interacting with it, not for general law enforcement.

Directors, Division Commanders, Officers, and Deputies of the service are barred from conducting investigations, except for the legitimate activities of the Observation Division, as outlined here. They may arrest or detain individuals only when acting under a signed judicial warrant, or when responding to a clear and immediate threat to life, physical safety, or the integrity of Judicial facilities. In the case of clear and immediate threats, such arrests must be publicly reviewed by a judge who was not involved in the matter, randomly selected from a standing panel of District and Provincial Judges approved in advance by the Chief Justice. This review must occur within three (3) days to ensure that sufficient

grounds existed for the arrest. Any person arrested without a warrant in this way is to be remanded to Executive Branch law enforcement within twenty-four (24) hours.

Article IV, Section 7 – Constitutional Offenses, Limitations, and Special Liability

Article IV, Section 7.A. Treason

Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them by a Citizen of the same, or in adhering to their enemies—whether foreign states or organized non-state actors engaged in hostilities or armed conflict against the United States—giving them aid and comfort, or by a President or Vice President refusing to vacate office when legally required to do so under this Charter.

No Person may be convicted of treason unless the charge is proven beyond a reasonable doubt. This may include physical, digital, or testimonial evidence. If the conviction relies solely on personal testimony, at least two witnesses must testify to the same specific act. A confession in open court remains sufficient.

The penalty for Treason shall presumptively include the suspension of the right to a passport, but not nationality. A jury may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties that are consistent with this Charter and clearly authorized by statute.

Peaceful protest or civil disobedience, even when disruptive, is expressly excluded from the definition of Treason.

Article IV, Section 7.B. Terrorism Against the United States

Terrorism Against the United States means using violence, large-scale destruction, or massive, coordinated disruption of infrastructure to force political change or influence government decisions by threatening or harming the People or institutions of the United States.

Any Person who commits such acts—such as mass killing, hostage-taking, cyber sabotage of essential systems, or other attacks using military-level force or dangerous technologies—shall be guilty of this crime.

For Citizens, the penalty for Terrorism Against the United States shall presumptively include suspension of the right to a passport, but not nationality. A jury may, at its discretion, impose additional penalties that are consistent with this Charter and clearly authorized by statute.

Peaceful protest or civil disobedience, even when disruptive, is expressly excluded from the definition of Terrorism Against the United States.

This offense applies to any Person, regardless of Citizenship or nationality.

Article IV, Section 7.C. Failure to Fulfill a Civic Duty

Failure to Fulfill a Civic Duty is a civic offense, not a crime.

A unanimous jury must find, beyond a reasonable doubt, that:

1. The Citizen failed, on at least two occasions, to perform specific Civic Duties named in this Charter; *and*
2. The Citizen acted with malicious intent, negligence beyond mere oversight (reckless disregard for a known duty), or recalcitrant intent (deliberate refusal to comply with lawful authority).

Upon adjudication that the Citizen Failed to Fulfill a Civic Duty, the Citizen will be required to participate in sixteen (16) hours per month of uncompensated civic service for a period of two (2) years. Civic service shall consist of duties as defined by law. Congress must define these duties such that they:

1. Are related to, but not the same as, civic duties required by this Charter (*ex.* handling jury summons, rather than service on a jury); and
2. Require real effort; they may not be "cushy" assignments.

Specific duties, once defined, must be assigned to adjudicated Citizens via a random process determined by law, such that it is free from manipulation by the Citizen or others working on their behalf.

Employers and other stakeholders must not retaliate against Citizens who are required to carry out supervised civic duties.

Article IV, Section 7.D. Failure to Uphold Oath of Office

Failure to Uphold Oath of Office is a civic offense and means a sustained pattern of action or inaction that shows willful disregard by an official for their oath and:

- Causes substantial harm to the Rights of the People or to a lawful government function; or
- Is not excused by reasonable reliance on existing law or duty; or
- Is done with the intent to subvert, ignore, or abuse authority granted by this Charter.

Adjudication requires that the failure be proven beyond a reasonable doubt by jury verdict or plea. Civil disagreement, honest error, or failed policy is not sufficient.

The penalty for this civic offense consists solely of removal from office, if still serving, and permanent disqualification from holding any future federal office.

Article IV, Section 7.E. Sedition

There is no crime of Sedition, nor may Congress enact any sweeping legislation regarding speech or expression critical of the government or alleged to support its enemies.

This provision must be read in light of the Charter's guarantees of speech and media freedom.

Article IV, Section 7.F. Liability for Autonomous Systems

Autonomous systems are deployed, operated, and maintained by humans. Therefore, the humans who deploy or maintain them fully are responsible for all actions carried out by those autonomous systems.

ARTICLE V – FEDERALISM

Article V, Section 1 – Structure of the Federal System

Article V, Section 1.A. Overall Structure

Sovereignty in the United States shall be layered. The Citizens are supreme and inherently possess ultimate Sovereignty. The Citizens have delegated authority through this Charter to the Federal Government. The Federal Government shall be supreme over those matters delegated to it by the Citizens via this Charter. The States and the Tribes shall be subordinate to the Federal Government, but shall otherwise exercise sovereignty within their jurisdictions.

Article V, Section 1.B. Territorial Sovereignty of the States and Tribes

Article V, Section 1.B.1. General Territorial Sovereignty

Within the limits imposed by this Charter, the States shall exercise Sovereignty within their borders, and the Tribes shall exercise Sovereignty within the borders of recognized Tribal lands. Federal jurisdiction shall extend to both States and Tribal lands equally, and all limitations on Federal jurisdiction and Powers shall apply equally in both cases.

Article V, Section 1.B.2. Recognition of Tribal Lands

Recognition of Tribal lands shall, by default, mean those lands recognized by the federal government at the time this Charter is ratified.

Any lands for which federal recognition or restoration proceedings were pending at the time of ratification shall complete the appropriate legal or bureaucratic review in progress, and the results of that review shall become binding law. Any such claims retain full access to the totality of the Federal Judiciary.

Congress may, subject to ratification by the majority of the Citizens voting in a Federal referendum, designate additional lands as Tribal, but once so designated, that designation may never be revoked under this Charter.

Article V. Section 1.B.3. States Rights

The Citizens have, through this Charter, delegated those powers not granted to the government instead to the States or Tribes, provided those powers are not exercised to derogate the Rights of the People.

Article V, Section 2 – Full Faith and Credit

Each of the States must give Full Faith and Credit to the legal judgments, legislative acts, regulations, records, and official acts of the other States. No State is required to enact identical laws or policies. Travelers and interstate migrants are nonetheless entitled to the recognition and protection of any legal status or right previously held under the laws of the original State. This Right cannot be abridged by courts, legislatures, executives, or constabularies of any kind or for any reason.

To be clear, for example, a resident of the fictional state of Oak receives a marriage license in Oak and is married, with that marriage being recorded in Oak. That person then moves to the fictional state of Rowan. In Rowan, marriage is only permitted between right-handed people, but the former resident of Oak is left-handed. Rowan is not obligated to extend marriage to left-handed residents in Rowan, but must recognize, conferring all the usual rights and privileges to the former resident of Oak, since their marriage was lawfully conducted, licensed, and recorded under the laws of Oak. Mere regulatory inconvenience is insufficient to deny Full Faith and Credit.

Article V, Section 3 – Equal Protection Under Federalism

All Persons are entitled to the Rights and equal protection guaranteed by this Charter, regardless of their place of residence.

Any Citizen who has been a permanent resident of a State for at least six (6) months must be recognized as a Citizen of that State, and any previous State Citizenship is automatically transferred. Any person born within a State is a Citizen of that State at birth. A State may establish a minimum period of residence required to qualify as a permanent resident, but this period may not exceed ninety (90) days.

Rights, privileges, and immunities granted by any State may be reserved to the Citizens of that State, as determined by legal residency. A State may deny benefits paid solely through revenues whose origin is within the State to persons who are not its Citizens. Otherwise, States may not engage in any form of discrimination against Citizens of other States.

Article V, Section 4 – State-to-State Extradition

States must return fugitives to other States where they are charged with crimes, if formally requested to do so.

Article V, Section 5 - Statehood

Article V, Section 5.A. Admission to Statehood

Only Territories may be admitted as new States into the Union. A Territory may become a State only if all the following conditions are met:

1. The Territory has been part of the United States for at least ten years, and
2. The Territory's population exceeds five hundred fifty thousand (550,000) Persons, and
3. A three-fifths ($^3/_5$) majority of votes cast in a lawful Territory-wide Citizens' referendum approve Statehood.

Multiple Territories may band together to meet the population threshold, but in so doing, bind themselves irrevocably as a single State if their Citizens approve statehood.

A State cannot lose its status and be reduced to a Territory solely due to a population decline.

Article V, Section 5.B. Secession

In keeping with the principles of Consent of the Governed and political stability, a State may secede from the Union, but only if a three-fourths (¾) majority of votes cast in a lawful Statewide referendum approve secession. If such a referendum succeeds, the secession shall take effect on the first day of January of the first calendar year that is at least one hundred (100) days after the vote.

The seceding State does not have a right to any federally owned assets, including facilities, equipment, land, or other tangible property.

The seceding State also may not take with it any Tribal lands, unless assented to by the Tribal Council.

Any seceding State that later wishes to return to the Union may only do so as a Territory. Readmission requires a three-fifths ($^3/_5$) majority in both chambers of Congress in assent. Once readmitted, the new Territory may not hold a referendum on Statehood for at least ten (10) years after the date of readmission.

Article V, Section 6 – State and Federal Obligations

The United States shall guarantee each State and all recognized Tribes in the Union a Republican form of government. In like fashion, every State and the Tribal Council shall, in turn, provide its People a Republican form of Government.

Every State and the Tribal Council must release its National Guard to Federal control when legally federalized by the President.

The United States shall protect each State and Tribal land against invasion. Upon request by the Governor of a State, the Tribal Council, or a State legislature, when the Governor is absent or incapacitated, the President shall fortify that State's National Guard with Federal forces for defense against invasion or rebellion.

Such a request must be submitted to Congress, which must vote within three (3) days on whether to authorize federal intervention consistent with this Charter and the Rights it protects. No intervention may occur without Congressional authorization. That authorization shall mandate the conditions for its conclusion and withdrawal.

Once authorized, the President shall not delay, withhold, or refuse to execute the intervention as approved by Congress. The President must not command federal troops to use force against the People of the State or Tribes. The President may and must use force against rebels once war is declared against them, as outlined in Article II, Section 4.H.1.

Article V, Section 7 – Prohibition of Sovereign Immunity

Neither any State nor the United States, nor any agency of either, enjoys Sovereign Immunity. Legal standing alone shall determine whether a Person or entity may bring a suit against any State or the United States.

Article V, Section 8 – The National Guard

The National Guard shall be organized at the State or Tribal Council level and functions as the militia for that State or the Tribal Council. The following shall bind the Federal government, the States or Tribes, and the National Guard:

- The Guard belongs to the State or Tribal Council, but must be released to the authority of the President as part of the Armed Forces of the United States when federalized.
- All members of the National Guard swear the same Oaths as Federal military personnel. That Oath overrides any conflicting orders from local, State, or Tribal officials acting outside the law. Guard members' duty is to the Charter of the United States first, and their State or the Tribes only subordinate to that.
- The Federal Armed Forces have the responsibility of providing military training for the National Guard.
- Congress must equip the National Guard in each State and for the Tribes.
- States or Tribes may provide additional, non-military training to their Guard units, at their discretion.
- States and Tribes retain control over the routine activity of their Guard units, unless those units are federalized at the time.

The President may federalize National Guard units for the following purposes:

- Defense of the nation;
- Enforcement of this Charter;

- Protection of the Rights of the People; or
- Federalization is automatic at any time when a declared War is in effect.

No Governor, Tribal Council, State legislature, or other State or Tribal authority whatsoever may use the Guard to resist or undermine this Charter. If the President, with majority assent from Congress, determines such action has occurred or is in progress, the Guard must be immediately federalized. Such a federalization is active at the moment of assent by Congress.

Failure to yield to lawful federalization is a rebellious attack on the United States.

Article V, Section 9 – Tribal Sovereignty and Federalism

Federally recognized Sovereign Tribes must give and receive the same Full Faith and Credit and mutual recognition as do States under this Article.

Tribal Lands exist on the same physical geography as States. Representation in the House of Representatives is apportioned as part of the State's delegation. State law shall apply on Tribal Lands, and the State shall have the Power and Duty to enforce its laws on Tribal Lands with the exact vigor exercised outside of them, except where doing so deprives the Tribes of their Rights under this Charter.

Disputes between Tribes and the States must be resolved by the Supreme Court. Adjudication must give equal deference to the Rights and Duties of both sovereign entities.

Article V, Section 10 – Territories

A Territory shall be defined as land under United States sovereignty that is not a State or Tribal Land and has no sovereign status of its own, even if granted limited self-government by Congress. Territories shall not be sovereign entities, although Congress may grant them the Power of home rule.

All Territories shall have equal Rights and Status to one another, and U.S. law must be applied equally in all Territories as it is in the States. Insular status shall not exist.

All land owned by the United States must be either a State, Tribal Lands, or a Territory, except for military or diplomatic lands.

Any Territorial land lacking a minimum of ten thousand (10,000) permanent residents must be incorporated into the most geographically proximate Territory meeting that threshold and may not be considered a separate Territory in its own right.

Congress shall have the power to legislate rules, regulations, and governing structures for Territories, provided that doing so respects the Rights of the People living within them, and Congress may not impose limits upon Territories' ability to apply for Statehood beyond those imposed by this Charter.

ARTICLE VI – DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES

Article VI, Section 1 – Conduct of Elections

Article VI, Section 1.A. Federal Elections

Article VI, Section 1.A.1. Timing and Access

To ensure that all Citizens have a meaningful opportunity to vote, Federal Elections for federal office and for referendums shall be held over four continuous days, beginning on the first Tuesday in November and ending on the following Friday. Federal Elections can happen any year, consistent with other limitations in this Charter. Polls must remain open and accessible for the entire voting period, without interruption. All eligible Citizens must be able to cast their vote at a time that aligns with their individual circumstances, including overnight and off-peak hours.

The timing, duration, and availability of polling for any federal special election must be materially the same as for regularly scheduled federal elections, including continuous access throughout the designated voting period.

In the event of extenuating circumstances, the Federal Election Commission may delay the election in a given region until the vote can be safely and fairly completed. Such a delay may not be for more than ten days, and once begun or resumed, must last in total for the full four days, with the same requirements for operating hours.

Article VI, Section 1.A.2. Staffing & Logistics

Staffing of polling locations shall be fulfilled through a Civic Lottery. This Civic Lottery will be overseen by the Federal Elections Commission, according to procedures established by Congress. Service as a poll worker in any capacity is considered a Civic Duty.

All operational, logistical, and security responsibilities for federal elections are vested in the Commission.

Each State, Territory, or Tribal land must designate local governments or agencies that are responsible for the on-the-ground conduct of elections. Local, State, and Tribal matters may appear on the ballots for federal elections.

The Commission shall coordinate with those designated bodies to ensure compliance with uniform federal standards and procedures.

The Territories, States, and Tribes shall designate polling locations, within guidelines set by the federal government, but the conduct of elections shall be a matter of uniform federal law.

The Commission retains the power to request full federalization of elections in a region by petitioning the Federal District Court in whose jurisdiction the polls in question are located. The FEC must show clear and compelling evidence that elections are compromised, in danger of imminent compromise, or that local officials refuse to comply with federal standards for the conduct of elections. If so federalized, the FEC must use federal law

enforcement for poll security and shall not rely on local law enforcement or security in that region.

Article VI, Section 1.A.3. Poll Accessibility

There must be no barriers to the poll, such as, but not limited to, poll taxes, ancestral eligibility requirements, or any requirement that fails to provide reasonable accommodation for disabilities.

Article VI, Section 1.A.4. Absentee and Early Voting

The government must make provisions for absentee voting and must allow seven consecutive days of early voting at designated polls open for a minimum of twelve hours each day.

Article VI, Section 1.A.5. Required Governmental Burden

The convenience of government workers, the cost of administration, or historical practice may never be used as a justification to limit access to the vote. Any rule or policy that has the plausibly foreseeable effect of burdening the exercise of the Right to vote must be presumed invalid under this Charter.

Article VI, Section 1.A.6. Acceptance Voting

Except for Senate races, Federal elections for public office will use acceptance voting. For each contest, voters may vote for any number of candidates they find acceptable, including none or all. Each candidate who is accepted receives one vote from that ballot.

The candidate receiving the most total votes shall be declared the winner.

Article VI, Section 1.A.7. Procedures for Close Margins

If an election results in a tie, or if the margin of victory is within 1% of the total votes cast, the Federal Elections Commission shall conduct a single, transparent, and publicly auditable recount. If a tie exists after the recount, the winner shall be determined by lot. In such a case, each tied candidate shall draw a number from one to one hundred, and the candidate with the highest number shall be declared the winner.

No additional recounts may be held on the basis of a close result.

Referendums will have a straight up-or-down vote. Referendums shall have no tie-breaker, and the referendum shall be ruled unresolved.

Article VI, Section 1.A.8. Open Choice

Primaries, caucuses, nominating contests, or other mechanisms limiting who may appear on a ballot are prohibited. All eligible candidates qualify independently, as provided by this Charter.

Article VI, Section 1.A.9. Campaign Season

Campaign season is defined as the one hundred eighty (180) days before a Federal Election. During campaign season, provably false political speech is unprotected, as provided in Article I, Section 2.B.2(ab_1).

Candidates may begin gathering petition signatures or fulfilling other ballot qualification requirements at any time allowed by law. A candidacy is considered “declared” when the candidate or their designated representative files the required signatures with the Federal Elections Commission. Signatures must be submitted no earlier than one year and no later than one hundred eighty days before the election.

Article VI, Section 1.B. Balloting Integrity and Verification Process

Article VI, Section 1.B.1. Physical Ballots and Ballot Verification

All votes shall be cast on physical, voter-marked ballots, either at an official polling location or by authorized absentee ballot.

Voter-marked means either directly marked by a voter or, in the case of a disabled voter, marked by a designated assistant in accordance with the voter’s direction.

Article VI, Section 1.B.1(a). Absentee Voting

Absentee ballots must be accepted and counted, provided they are postmarked before Election Day and received no later than five (5) days after the election.

No excuse shall be required to cast an absentee ballot, but the voter must request such a ballot in order to receive one. Congress may establish reasonable requirements to verify voter eligibility prior to issuing an official absentee ballot.

Absentee ballots must be presumed valid unless affirmatively proven otherwise, via court challenge at the challenger's expense or submission by election officials to the Federal Elections Commission for challenge in court.

Congress must enact regulations to ensure absentee ballots are resistant to counterfeiting.

Article VI, Section 1.B.1(b). In-Person Voting

In-person voters shall mark their ballots using a system that confirms machine readability and produces a printed ballot for voter verification. The printed ballot shall serve as the official, auditable record for any recount or manual audit.

Before submitting the ballot to election officials, the voter may review the printed copy. If they identify any discrepancy or error, they must be allowed to spoil it and complete a corrected ballot in its place.

Article VI, Section 1.B.2. Physical Record

The printed ballot shall be deposited into a secure, tamper-resistant container to serve as the legal and auditable record of the vote. No vote shall be considered valid or official unless its physical ballot is retained and secured in this manner.

Spoiled ballots must be marked with the word "Spoiled" written in ink in large letters across the face of the ballot and deposited in a separate, secure, tamper-resistant container. They must be retained for as long as the official ballots are in existence for accountability and audit purposes.

Each ballot shall be assigned a unique, non-personally-identifiable tracking code. This code shall be recorded by the scanning machine and included in the electronic record. During any audit or recount, election officials must be able to verify that each physical ballot corresponds exactly to its recorded digital interpretation, ensuring full traceability without compromising ballot secrecy.

Article VI, Section 1.B.3. Open Scrutiny

All software used to scan, tally, or report votes must be fully open-source and the final revision publicly available for inspection no later than one hundred eighty (180) days before any election in which it is used. The Federal Elections Commission shall maintain a reference copy of all code that meets this requirement. Private vendors may supply hardware or software only if every line of code they deploy is equally open-source and subject to public scrutiny.

If a credible threat to voting integrity is successfully raised in federal court at any time after the proposed final revision is submitted, the court must issue a waiver to allow the development of new software on an emergency basis. The resulting code still must be open-source and available for public review.

Article VI, Section 1.B.4. Automatic Audit

After every election, at least two percent (2%) of precincts in each county, rounded up to the next whole precinct, and randomly selected by the Federal Elections Commission, shall be hand-counted to verify machine accuracy; if discrepancies exceed one-half of one

percent (0.5%) or could change the outcome of any race in that precinct, all precincts in the county, parish, or similar jurisdiction must immediately be hand-counted.

For the purposes of this provision, "county" means a county, parish, or other similar local political division.

Article VI, Section 1.C. Assisted Voting Guarantee

Article VI, Section 1.C.1. Authorization for Assistance

Any voter who requires assistance to mark or cast a ballot may do so with a person of their choosing or, if unavailable, with a sworn election worker, provided that the assistant acts solely at the voter's direction and maintains the secrecy of the ballot, as provided in Article VI, Section 1.B.1.

Article VI, Section 1.C.2. Mandate to Provide Assistance

If a Citizen is legally able to vote but requires assistance to do so and has no designated assistant, the government must provide one to them if the voter wishes to vote in person.

Government-provided assistance need only extend to reading the ballot aloud in English, assistance with marking the ballot, and assistance with mobility or adaptations to compensate for a lack of mobility. More comprehensive assistance may be provided, but only as provided for by Federal or State law.

Article VI, Section 1.D. Federal Elections Commission (FEC)

There shall be a Federal Elections Commission, which must be a permanent agency, independent from any branch of government. The Commission shall be responsible for overseeing and enforcing the provisions of this Charter related to the timing, conduct, financing, speech, and integrity of federal elections.

Article VI, Section 1.D.1. Citizenship Requirement

All Officials and employees of the Federal Elections Commission, including the Commissioner and Vice-Commissioners, must be Citizens of the United States.

Article VI, Section 1.D.2. Neutrality Requirement

As a condition of employment or office, all Officials and employees of the FEC must remain publicly neutral in all matters regarding the conduct of elections and the application of Charter law, statutes, and regulations. This should not be construed to nullify their Right to vote.

No Official or employee of the Federal Elections Commission may be a member of or act with intent to benefit any political party.

Article VI, Section 1.D.3. Leadership and Compensation

Article VI, Section 1.D.3(a). The Commissioner of Federal Elections

Article VI, Section 1.D.3(a_1). Term of the Commissioner

The Commissioner of Federal Elections shall lead the FEC and will serve a single, non-renewable term of six (6) years. Regardless of whether their predecessor left office at the end of their term or before, each Commissioner serves a full term, commencing on the first working day following their confirmation.

Article VI, Section 1.D.3(a_2). Appointment of the Commissioner

The Vice President, Leader of the Senate, and Speaker of the House must, at all times, maintain a list of no fewer than five and no more than ten candidates for appointment to the office of Commissioner. Two votes of the three are sufficient to add or remove an individual to or from the list of candidates.

When a vacancy occurs, the President must nominate one of these candidates no later than ten (10) days after the Office shall become vacant. The Senate must hold a confirmation vote within thirty (30) days of the nomination. A majority of voting Senators shall be sufficient to confirm. If the nominee is not confirmed, the President must submit another nominee within ten (10) days. This process shall repeat until a Commissioner is confirmed.

Article VI, Section 1.D.3(b). The Vice Commissioners of Federal Elections for the States

Each State or Territory shall have a Vice Commissioner of Federal Elections. Vice Commissioners serve as the Commissioner's designated deputy and carry out oversight of Federal elections within that State or Territory. There shall also be a single Vice Commissioner for the combined Territories of the United States. The Commissioner may request the dismissal of any Vice Commissioner at their pleasure; however, dismissal must be ratified by a majority vote in the Senate.

Each Vice Commissioner shall have a staff funded by Congress of sufficient size and scope to carry out the duties of the Commission in the State.

Article VI, Section 1.D.3(b_1). Term of Vice Commissioners

Each Vice Commissioner shall serve a three-year term, renewable twice. The term of a Vice Commissioner begins on the first workday following their confirmation by the Senate. Renewed terms begin automatically on the first business day after the prior term ends. A term is only renewed if the Commissioner issues a written statement before the previous term ends.

Article VI, Section 1.D.3(b_2). Appointment of Vice Commissioners

The Commissioner of Federal Elections shall nominate each Vice Commissioner, who must be confirmed by a simple majority vote in the Senate. Appointments must be made within ten (10) days following a vacancy, and the Senate must vote within

thirty (30) days of nomination. The Commissioner may renew terms without requiring an additional confirmation vote.

Article VI, Section 1.D.4. Duties and Powers of the Federal Elections Commission

Article VI, Section 1.D.4(a). Administration of Federal Elections

The Federal Elections Commission is responsible for administering federal elections. This includes, but is not limited to, verifying signatures for petitions and submissions of candidacy, coordinating with States regarding voting equipment and maintenance procedures, ensuring uniform standards, and promoting good-faith collaboration with the States to provide appropriate voting locations for elections.

Article VI, Section 1.D.4(b). Oversight of Elections

The Federal Elections Commission shall have primary oversight of all federal elections, and designated State agencies shall assist. Whenever a State election occurs concurrently with a federal election, the Federal Elections Commission shall exercise combined oversight. In such cases, all election workers shall be drawn from the Civic Lottery, and all costs related to the administration of that election shall be paid in full by the Federal Government through the Commission. States may enact and enforce rules governing their own elections. Any such rules must not conflict with the provisions of this Charter or hinder the integrity or conduct of the federal election in any way.

Article VI, Section 1.D.4(c). Statute Enforcement

The Federal Elections Commission shall also be responsible for enforcing all Charter provisions and federal statutes related to the conduct, integrity, financing, and regulation of elections. Enforced statutes must be consistent with this Charter.

The Federal Elections Commission shall have full investigative authority to enforce election law. It may compel testimony or documents only upon judicial warrant based on probable cause, which must describe the particular violation being investigated with specificity. Upon finding of wrongdoing, the Commission may refer the matter to the appropriate Executive agency for criminal investigation, if warranted. The FEC may initiate civil proceedings for violations that are not criminal in nature. When making a referral, the Commission must forward all documents and testimony with the referral. No evidence may be held back.

Article VI, Section 1.D.4(d). Legislative Oversight

Congress may exercise legislative oversight over the conduct of the Federal Elections Commission.

Article VI, Section 1.E. Standing to Challenge

Article VI, Section 1.E.1. General Provisions

Article VI, Section 1.E.1(a). Investiture

Any declared candidate for federal office shall have standing to bring a civil action in a Federal District Court against one or more other candidates in the same race for violations of federal election law.

The Federal Elections Commission shall have standing to bring a civil action in a Federal District Court against any party or parties for violations of federal election law in any election.

Other individuals or groups may potentially have standing as otherwise provided for in Article IV.

Article VI, Section 1.E.1(b). Materiality

In any suit brought, the alleged violation must be material and:

1. Must have occurred or have produced an effect during the current or most recent campaign season, or
2. Be plausibly expected to occur, based on observable conditions, regulations, or behavior, in the current or a future campaign season.

A violation must be considered material if it could plausibly affect the outcome of the election or elections in question, or abridge the fair exercise of Rights by voters or other

candidates. The court must determine materiality based on the totality of circumstances, including the timing, scale, and nature of the violation.

Article VI, Section 1.E.2. Procedure

Claims must be brought within thirty (30) days of discovery of the violation, but no later than seven (7) days before the election, unless the violation occurred within that period. Court rulings should generally be issued within seventy-two (72) hours of filing, unless exceptional circumstances justify a delay.

Appeals of election-related rulings must be heard and decided within seventy-two (72) hours of filing.

Article VI, Section 1.E.3. Relief

If the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that a material violation occurred, it may issue appropriate relief: injunctive orders, monetary penalties as authorized by law, disqualification of the offending candidate, or nullification of the election result, consistent with this Charter.

Any such nullification shall be limited to the race and jurisdiction in which the violation occurred and shall not affect unrelated contests on the same ballot or future candidacy. In the event of nullification, a new special election must be held within ninety (90) days of the judgment, to include the original referendum or candidates as the first, less any candidates disqualified by the judgment. If nullification and a subsequent special election could change the outcome of a nationwide race, a randomly selected Senator who is otherwise qualified

for the office shall take office and hold the Office as caretaker until the special election is certified.

Article VI, Section 1.F. Campaign Financing

Article VI, Section 1.F.1. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to all laws regarding Campaign Financing.

Article VI, Section 1.F.1(a). Candidate

A Candidate is defined as a Citizen who is running for any Office of trust, whether at the Federal, State, or Local level.

Article VI, Section 1.F.1(b). Referendum

A referendum is any matter of direct democracy appearing on a ballot, whether at the Federal, State, or Local level.

Article VI, Section 1.F.1(c). Campaign

A Campaign is defined as any and all efforts, beyond an individual Citizen's vote, designed to influence the outcome of an election through communication, organization, expenditure, or deployment of resources. This definition applies to efforts by Campaign Organizations, as well as to other actors working toward or opposing those ends. It does not encompass private musings or discussions that are not intended for the general public. A Campaign is considered concluded when a Candidate withdraws their Candidacy or thirty days after the election is concluded and final.

Article VI, Section 1.F.1(d). Campaign Organization

For a Candidate, a Campaign Organization is the Association, directly led by the Candidate or their appointed Campaign Manager, for the purpose of conducting and coordinating a Campaign for Office.

For Referendums, a Campaign Organization is defined as the Association responsible for submitting a petition for amendment or the body specified in this Charter responsible for submitting a Referendum. If an individual Person submits a petition for amendment, the Campaign Organization shall be the Association directly led by that Person or another Person whom they designate.

Campaign Organizations, though they are Associations, are exempt from the requirements in this Charter that limit political speech by Associations. That exemption lasts only for as long as the Campaign. No Candidate or Referendum may operate or benefit from more than one Campaign Organization.

Article VI, Section 1.F.1(e). Campaign Donations

Campaign donations are defined as financial consideration, materials, property, or infrastructure provided for the purpose of conducting a Campaign, as defined in this Charter. Independent political expenditures are included in this definition.

Article VI, Section 1.F.1(f). Funding Period

The Funding Period is the defined period of time during which Campaign Donations may be solicited and received.

Article VI, Section 1.F.2. Financing of Campaigns for Office

Article VI, Section 1.F.2(a). Limits to Filing Fees

Congress may impose filing fees for candidates seeking Office. Those fees, including all such fees in aggregate, may not exceed one-third ($^1/_3$) of the median personal income according to the most recent decennial census. No other authority, agency, Office, or body is authorized to impose additional financial burdens on the declaration of candidacy.

Article VI, Section 1.F.2(b). Limits to Campaign Donations

There shall be a limit on the value of Campaign Donations permitted from individuals during any given Campaign Season for the purpose of electing or defeating Candidates.

Voluntary Donations of time and labor by the individual making the Donation are exempt from these limits. Such Donations are also not bound by the provisions of Article VI, Section 1.F.4

This limit is cumulative across all donations and candidates in the same Campaign Season.

The limit shall be equal to one-fourth ($^1/_4$) of the median personal income in the United States, according to the most recent decennial census, per donor in aggregate across all Campaigns.

Article VI, Section 1.F.2(c). Aggregations and Donations Through Associations

Associations may collect, use, and spend Campaign Donations, including the aggregation of Campaign Donations on members' behalf. The Campaign Donations so collected must be

kept in a discrete fund, and any Campaigning is limited to the use or expenditure of the funds in that discrete fund. General funds, membership dues, Association fees, and the like are barred from use for this purpose.

Except for Campaign Organizations, Associations may not incur debt to finance Campaign activity. Associations enjoy no entitlement to political expression in their own right. They may do so only when aggregating and passing through Campaign Donations as outlined here.

Article VI, Section 1.F.2(d). Self-Funding Candidacies

Any Candidate may contribute an amount less than or equal in value to the ninety-eighth percentile of personal income from the last decennial census to their own Campaign.

Article VI, Section 1.F.2(e). Issue Advocacy

Whether in the confines of Campaign Season or not, issue advocacy by individuals is protected speech. Issue Advocacy by Associations of any kind is restricted to members-only forums and member education. Campaign Donations may not be used for this purpose.

Issue Advocacy ceases to be Advocacy and becomes Campaign activity any time a reasonable person can infer endorsement or rejection of a Candidate or Referendum.

Article VI, Section 1.F.3. Funding of Referendum Campaigns

Any Person or Association may make unlimited donations regarding Referendums, but all donations are made to an Account devoted to the Referendum. The Account shall be administered by the Federal Elections Commission. Funds shall be dispersed in equal

amounts to sub-Accounts dedicated to For and Against the Referendum (one Account each). Campaigns may request funds from one or the other account, subject to audit and reporting requirements developed by the FEC for proper use of funds dispersed.

Article VI, Section 1.F.4. Funding Period and Transparency

Campaign Donations may only be solicited or received during the Funding Period beginning twenty days prior to the start of Campaign Season, as defined in Article VI, Section 1.A.9 of this Charter, and until thirty days following final resolution of an election.

All Campaign Donations must be reported to the Federal Elections Commission and shall be a matter of public record, including the Persons or Associations making the Donation.

Campaign Donations shall be reported on the first day of each month, and any Donation received within the previous month must be reported. Receipt is defined as the act of a Campaign Organization taking possession either of the funds, goods, or other Donations or of the instrument of their transfer.

Article VI, Section 2 – Redistricting

Article VI, Section 2.A. Redistricting Frequency

Congressional and District Court districts shall be redrawn every ten years, in the odd-numbered year following the publication of the national census. No State, commission, or other authority may redraw or revise congressional or court districts at any other time.

Article VI, Section 2.B. Redistricting Commission Selection

Independent commissions shall draw Congressional District maps. Each redistricting commission shall consist of seven (7) members selected via Civic Lottery from among the registered voters of the State, and an equal number of alternates shall be selected in the same manner.

Service as a commissioner or alternate is a compulsory Civic Duty. Refusal to serve, unless excused through the judicial screening process or other excusal authorized by this Charter, shall constitute a failure to fulfill Civic Duty.

If an alternate is activated to the Commission, excused, removed, or becomes incapable of serving, a replacement shall be selected by Civic Lottery from the same pool of eligible Citizens.

Commissioners and alternates must be selected by June 30 in each census year.

Article VI, Section 2.C. Redistricting Standards and Priorities

Congressional and court districts shall be drawn according to the following order of priority:

1. Equal Population. Districts shall be drawn to achieve as equal in size as possible, based on population.
2. Geographic Compactness. Geographic compactness shall be measured by how closely a district's shape maintains a uniform distance from its center to its outer boundary. Districts should resemble basic geometric forms, such as circles or squares, except where irregular shapes are necessary to achieve population equality, respect political boundaries, or accommodate geographic features.
3. Congressional Subdistricts shall follow the same rubric, except that the population of each district shall be divided by fifty-five thousand (55,000), discarding any remainders to determine the number of Subdistricts in a given District.

Article VI, Section 2.D. Commission Transparency

Each redistricting commission shall publish a summary of each meeting, vote, or formal consultation within forty-eight (48) hours. A complete account of all other documents, minutes, deliberations, et cetera, must be published with reasonable promptness, but also with due care for accessibility and clarity.

Article VI, Section 2.E. Commission Procedures

Each commission must meet at least once a week, beginning January 2, until final maps are submitted, either in person or via a secure virtual conference. A majority of commissioners will constitute a quorum. Alternates are required to attend all meetings.

The Federal Elections Commission must provide administrative support to each Redistricting Commission.

Redistricting commissions have the power to request expert consultation on subjects relating to redistricting.

Final maps must be submitted to the Provincial Court by the end of the calendar year. Extensions may be requested from the Provincial Court for exceptional circumstances, but, if granted, all other deadlines remain unchanged.

Article VI, Section 2.F. Mandated Judicial Review

Article VI, Section 2.F.1. Review Criteria and Deadline

The Provincial Court shall review all submitted district maps for constitutionality. A ruling must be provided no later than March 31 of the year after the submission deadline.

Article VI, Section 2.F.2. Procedures for Non-Compliant Maps

If the court finds the maps unconstitutional, the previously enacted districts shall remain in effect for one election cycle, and a new Redistricting Commission shall be empaneled in

accordance with the same procedures. The second Commission shall follow the same rules as the first. However, the second Commission may request guidance from the Provincial Court during its deliberations. If the second Commission's maps are found unconstitutional, a new Commission shall be seated using the same process, including the provision for court guidance. This cycle shall continue until a valid map is approved.

Article VI, Section 2.F.3. Durability of Districts

Once approved, district maps must remain in effect until the next decennial redistricting cycle. No changes may be made unless expressly required by this Charter or by a final ruling of a court with jurisdiction.

Article VI, Section 2.F.4. Judicial Jurisdiction for Redistricting

Provincial Appellate Courts shall have original jurisdiction on all matters and controversies regarding redistricting.

Article VI, Section 2.G. Long-Term Transparency

The Federal Elections Commission shall maintain a public archive of all final district maps, commission records, court rulings, and related materials. All such materials shall be made accessible to the public in a searchable, permanent online database. When new maps are adopted, superseded maps must be turned over for permanent retention in accordance with Article VI, Section 3 of this Charter.

Article VI, Section 3 – Transparency of the Federal Government

Article VI, Section 3.A. General Transparency Requirement

All government institutions and all elected or appointed officials shall operate with transparency. All laws, decisions, public expenditures, and official actions must be open to public review within fourteen (14) calendar days, except as expressly limited by this Charter.

Article VI, Section 3.A.1. Digital Publication

All unclassified government documents, including foundational documents, amendments, Statutes at Large, United States Reports, United States Code, Congressional Record, Executive Orders, Executive Proclamations, and similar documents, must be available digitally online or through other mass-distributive technology that may become available.

Article VI, Section 3.A.2. Accessibility

Published documents must be searchable, machine-readable, and available to the general public at no cost.

Article VI, Section 3.A.3. Retention Mandate

Congress must, by law, establish and review every ten years the standards for the retention of materials required by this Charter. Congress shall, at the same time, establish and review retention criteria and methods for other documents and records not mandated for

retention by this Charter. Such criteria shall account not only for temporal utility, but also for cultural and historical preservation.

The first such review must be completed within eighteen (18) months of ratification of this Charter.

Article VI, Section 3.A.4. Physical Retention of Primary Documents

Physical copies of those primary documents that are physically retained must be stored as provided by law. Such laws must address security from theft, tampering, decay, or foreseeable hazards, such as fire or flood.

Article VI, Section 3.A.5. Controlling Agency

Congress shall designate an agency with overall responsibility for records. That agency may be any that Congress chooses, but there must only be a single agency with primary oversight. Congress may delegate portions of retention and publication, but a single agency must retain full authority over all processes.

Article VI, Section 3.B. Limits to Executive Privilege

The President receives confidential advice while carrying out the duties of the Office. This advice is generally subject to Executive Privilege, meaning that it may remain secret for a period of time to encourage the free flow of frank advice to the President. The purpose of Executive Privilege is to protect the advisor, not the President.

This privilege applies only:

- To advice given in direct support of their constitutional duties; and
- To staff whose roles are publicly defined by law or by this Charter.

This advice is subject to privileged status until:

- January 20, eight years after the President leaves office, or
- Congress, by simple majority vote, orders the President to release records of that advice to the courts or to Congress.
- A Federal Court rules that Executive Privilege does not apply.

Article VI, Section 3.C. Sunset Review and Declassification

Five (5) years after an official leaves their final term in office, the sitting President or a cleared and designated deputy shall review their classified records. The reviewed records must be released to the public within a reasonable time, and no later than July 1 of that year.

The President may reclassify specific records only if they are:

- Vital to national security, *or*
- Related to ongoing foreign intelligence or to foreign intelligence assets still in harm's way, *or*
- Part of ongoing military operations, *or*
- Tied to active diplomatic negotiations.

"Vital to national security" means releasing the information would cause harm to the United States, reveal sources or methods, or endanger the lives of informants or agents of the United States. Avoidance of mere international embarrassment is not vital to national security.

Whenever the President reclassifies records, the Supreme Court shall review such classified records to determine whether the classification complies with the requirements of this Charter.

The Court must release its ruling within ninety (90) days of receiving both:

- The classified record; *and*
- The executive's written justification for withholding it, which the Executive Branch must provide.

Article VI, Section 3.D. Diplomatic Negotiations

The President, Vice President, Secretary of State, Ambassadors, and Consuls, or their lawfully designated deputies, may withhold records of ongoing diplomatic negotiations. These records must be preserved and made public upon the conclusion or official abandonment of the negotiations, except for portions:

- Lawfully classified to protect intelligence sources and methods; or
- Connected to active military operations.

If Senate consent is required for a treaty or agreement, the relevant records must be made available to the Senate prior to any ratification vote, but must be published once the treaty is ratified, unless classified according to the other provisions in this Section.

Article VI, Section 4 - Amendments

Article VI, Section 4.A. Petition Qualification

The People of the United States shall have the Right to propose amendments to this Charter through public petition. Neither Congress nor the States enjoys the Right to propose amendments.

To qualify for consideration, a petition must contain valid signatures from at least three and one-half percent (3.5%) of the national population, as measured by the most recent decennial census. Signatories must be adults residing within the United States, but Citizenship is not required.

Petitions must obtain the required number of valid signatures within three hundred sixty-five (365) days after filing a notice of intent with the Federal Elections Commission. The Federal Elections Commission shall verify the validity of petition signatures by comparing them to their corresponding National Identification Numbers.

Article VI, Section 4.B. Amendment Ratification

If the petition is certified by the Federal Elections Commission, it shall proceed to a ratification vote during the next federal election, unless that election occurs within one hundred eighty (180) days of certification. In that case, the vote shall take place during the subsequent federal election. Although any resident may sign a petition, only Citizens may vote on Charter amendments. Ratification requires the approval of at least three-fifths ($^3/_5$)

of those Citizens voting on the question. Any amendment ratified is part of this Charter with equal weight in law.

The full text of the proposed amendment must appear on the petition circulated for signatures. It must also appear on the ballot during the ratification vote.

If a petition fails to be ratified, it may be resubmitted, but only via a wholly new petition.

Article VI, Section 4.C. Legal Challenges

Legal challenges may be filed concerning petition certification or the election process. The courts may not block or remove a petition solely because it seeks to add, alter, or eliminate a fundamental Right protected by this Charter.

Article VI, Section 5 – Emergency Procedures for Executive Removal

At any time that the President, upon expiration of their term or following final adjudication or certification of removal, refuses to vacate office as required under this Charter, they shall be committing an act of treason as defined in Article IV, Section 7.A of this Charter. Such a figure shall be designated a Rogue President.

Article VI, Section 5.A. Interim Military Command

All military and Executive Branch departments must immediately cease compliance with any new orders issued by the Rogue President.

Command of the military shall transfer to the Secretary of Defense, unless they, too, are legally disqualified or implicated. If the Secretary is impugned or incapacitated, command shall pass to the Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Neither official may use military forces for domestic law enforcement or political purposes. Their authority is limited solely to the defense of the United States against armed attack or armed foreign incursion. Within that context, however, command authority is complete provided that no orders are given that violate the law or this Charter.

Article VI, Section 5.B. Civilian Oversight of Executive Departments

Each department of the Executive Branch shall be led by its respective Cabinet Secretary, or, if unavailable, the most senior appointed Official within that department, subject to Congressional oversight. If no appointed Official is available, the most senior career

employee, as determined by title. In the event of ties in seniority, total active federal service shall serve as a tie-breaker.

Any Executive Official who colludes with, supports, or fails to oppose a Rogue President is considered unavailable under the terms of this provision.

Article VI, Section 5.C. Temporary Duration

This emergency structure may only remain in effect until a President lawfully assumes office under the provisions of this Charter.

Article VI, Section 5.D. General Compulsion

Failure to comply with this Section shall constitute Failure to Uphold Oath of Office. Doing so shall expose any Official guilty of such to further criminal or civil liability, as provided in this Charter and by the laws duly enacted by Congress.

Article VI, Section 6 – Military Oath

Every member of the active or reserve military, as well as the National Guard, whether enlisted, warrant officers, or commissioned officers, must swear or affirm the following, legally binding oath:

"I [full legal name] do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I will uphold and defend the Rights of the American People, and that I will do so with full regard and faith to the National Charter of the United States of America. I will defend the People against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I will bear them true faith and give them my allegiance. I will obey the lawful orders of the President and the officers appointed over me according to the laws and regulations of the National Charter and Congress. I understand this oath [or affirmation] is binding and that I will be held legally to what I am swearing [or affirming]."

Article VI, Section 7 – Digital Infrastructure

Article VI, Section 7.A. Retention of Digital Infrastructure

All digital infrastructure used to carry out essential government functions must remain under the direct control and operation of the Government. Such systems may not be outsourced to or operated by private entities.

Article VI, Section 7.B. Exclusive Authority of Government

Subject only to the Sovereign will of the collective Citizenry, the Government shall maintain full and exclusive authority over public records, communications, and digital systems necessary for constitutional governance.

Article VI, Section 7.C. Duty to Modernize

The Government has an affirmative duty to modernize and adapt its infrastructure as technology develops, ensuring security, accessibility, and resilience in accordance with this Charter. Congress must establish in law requirements to ensure that modernization and adaptation must safeguard the security and reliability of new technologies and platforms before implementation.

ARTICLE VII – SUPREMACY, RATIFICATION, & TRANSITION

Article VII, Section 1 – Supremacy & Continuity

This Charter is the supreme law of the United States.

All laws and contracts entered into before the Ratification of this Charter remain in effect, unless contradicted by this Charter. When a controversy arises regarding them, they must remain valid unless directly contradicted by this Charter or repealed by Congress.

If the Courts must strike down a law, whether it existed before this Charter or is adopted after its Ratification, care must be taken to sever the unconstitutional provision(s) from the rest of the statute, if possible.

Article VII, Section 2 - Ratification

Article VII, Section 2.A. Ratification Timing

Congress shall publicly announce, no later than April 30 of the calendar year in which it is to be considered, a national referendum on the Ratification of this Charter. The vote shall be held on the first Tuesday of November.

Article VII, Section 2.B. Eligibility & Procedure

All currently eligible voters may participate in the referendum on Ratification.

The ballot must ask, “Do you wish to adopt the National Charter of the United States as a replacement for the current Constitution?” Each Citizen shall vote either “Yes” to adopt this Charter or “No” to reject it.

Article VII, Section 2.C. Ratification Threshold

Ratification requires the approval of at least three-fifths ($^{3}/_{5}$) of the Citizens voting in the referendum.

Article VII, Section 2.D. Congressional or Judicial Intransigence

If Congress or the courts refuse to hold the referendum, the People may organize their own national vote the next year, on a date they choose, using any peaceful means available.

If the People approve this Charter by at least three-fifths ($^3/_5$), that approval serves as a formal notice of demand to Congress and the States to conduct a lawful referendum on the next national election day.

Article VII, Section 2.E. Final Citizen-Led Ratification Vote

If a Citizen referendum is held in accordance with Section 2.D of this Article and citizen approval triggers notice that a lawful referendum is required, but Congress or the courts again refuse to carry out or allow a lawful referendum within the calendar year, the People may conduct a final and binding national vote on the following Fourth of July. They may do so by any peaceful means available to them. The voting methods and rules must be publicly announced in advance via any available means.

If three-fifths ($^3/_5$) of those voting that day approve the Charter, the People will have spoken. This Charter will, at that point, be considered ratified and legitimate, while the previous Constitution shall be considered no longer binding.

Article VII, Section 3 – Transition Following Ratification

Article VII, Section 3.A. Transition Timelines

The following provisions govern the transition from the previous form of government to one under this Charter. This Section (Article VII, Section 3) must be read in harmony with all other Charter provisions.

The timelines in this section are effective only during the transitional period. Once they have reached their conclusions, the ordinary timelines established in Articles I through VI must prevail. No transitional timeline established in this section may be revived or reapplied for any reason once concluded.

Article VII, Section 3.B. Legal Transition and Implementation

Upon ratification, any provision of law, precedent, or institutional rule that clearly and directly conflicts with this Charter shall be rendered inoperative, subject only to the transitional provisions outlined in this Section (Article VII, Section 3).

Article VII, Section 3.B.1. General Transition Scheme

To ensure continuity and lawful governance, any conflicting provision of prior law shall remain temporarily in effect until the earliest of:

- Two (2) years from the date of ratification; *or*

- The date on which the administrative authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter formally declares itself fully transitioned to the framework of this Charter.

Regardless of the above scheme, specific provisions for transition contained elsewhere in this Charter supersede this general framework, and all Rights enumerated in Article I are presumed to carry their full weight immediately upon Ratification.

During this period, all institutions of government shall interpret and apply existing law in a manner most consistent with the Rights, duties, and structure established by this Charter.

After this transition period, any provision inconsistent with the laws or practices in this Charter shall be fully and finally void. That negation shall only affect effects or actions in the present and future. Past lawful actions shall not be revisited.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2. Specific Transition Provisions

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a). The Legislative Branch

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_1). Congressional Terms

Members of Congress serving at the time of ratification may complete their current terms. The rules and qualifications established in this Charter apply to all future terms and elections beginning after ratification.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_2). Senate Reduction Plan

In each State, the first Senate seat to expire or otherwise become vacant shall become extinct. The other seat shall be the State's single seat going forward.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_3). Tribal Senate Representation

The recognized Tribes shall elect their Senator in the next regular election during which members of Congress are elected.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_4). Accounting of Congressional Term Limits

Legislative terms begun prior to ratification shall not be considered toward term limits. Any term beginning after ratification shall count toward both the chamber-specific and combined term limits in Congress. No Member of Congress may be re-elected if doing so would violate the term limits established herein.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_5). Ethics, Structure, & Rules Changes

All procedural rules, ethical obligations, and operational structures established by this Charter take effect at the beginning of the next numbered Congress, except as noted in Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_2).

Congress has one hundred eighty (180) days after ratification to update its rules, Code of Ethics, and support offices to match this Charter.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_6). Durable Redistricting

No amendment to this Charter or statute may be enacted that alters, suspends, overrides, or interferes with the redistricting process, requirements, or limitations in this Charter until after the first complete redistricting cycle following the next decennial census.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_7). Legislative Support Infrastructure

Congress must select the Chief Officer of Legislative Support no later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of ratification. The Chief Officer of Legislative Support, in turn, shall have thirty (30) days to make their initial nominations for the Directors of Administration and Enforcement.

Upon full confirmation of the Chief Officer and the Directors, reorganization of the various support departments of the Legislative Branch into the Bureau of Legislative Support must begin.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_8). Official Residences

During the first complete numbered Congress following ratification, Congress shall take care that housing is built or secured that meets the requirements under Article II, Section 1.F. Those residences must be in use by the first day of the second complete numbered Congress following ratification.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(a_9). Local Delegates

Local Delegates shall be elected to office for the first time in the first federal election following the first adoption of a redistricted map within a given State.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(b). The Executive Branch

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(b_1). Term Limits & Qualifications

Presidential and Vice Presidential term limits apply to all terms beginning after ratification, and any prior terms still count toward the limit. Both are presumed qualified until the end of their current term. The qualifications for President and Vice President listed in this Charter shall take effect in the first Presidential election following ratification.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(b_2). Vice Presidential Duties

Upon ratification, the Vice President shall immediately assume the duties assigned to that Office in this Charter. Until the beginning of the next numbered Congress, the President Pro Tempore shall preside over the Senate.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(b_3). Emergency Powers

Emergency and cybersecurity powers, and the limitations on them, delegated to the President in this Charter shall take effect immediately. Even during the transitional period, the Presidency shall be neither plenary nor unitary.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(b_4). The Cabinet and Appointed Executive Officers

Cabinet members serving at the time of ratification shall remain in Office until they resign or their terms end, in accordance with this Charter. The new rules for appointments and dismissals apply only to future appointments.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(b_5). Executive Limits

Article III, Section 4 shall take effect immediately and in full upon ratification.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(b_6). Executive Succession

The Presidential succession in Article III, Section 1.B shall take effect at the beginning of the next numbered Congress. Until that time, the succession plan in place at the time of ratification shall prevail.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c). The Judicial Branch

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_1). General Rule

Judicial term limits, court structure, and appointment procedures established by this Charter apply to all future appointments following ratification, unless otherwise specified in Article VII.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_2). Judicial Continuity

Judges and Justices serving at the time of ratification shall continue in office temporarily under the transition rules described below.

Within twenty (20) days of ratification, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court will assign all seated judges, including those who were formerly Administrative judges, into the following staggered groups:

1. Group 1: Vacant Judgeships at the time of transition.
2. Group 2: Sitting Judges sworn into their current term within eighteen (18) months of the date of ratification.
3. Group 3: Sitting Judges sworn into their current term between eighteen (18) months and seven (7) years before ratification.
4. Group 4: Sitting Judges sworn into their current term between seven (7) years and fifteen (15) years before ratification.
5. Group 5: All sitting judges sworn into their current term more than fifteen (15) years before ratification.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_3) Vacancies at Ratification

Group 1 judgeships, as defined in Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_2), must be filled according to the process in this Charter within sixty (60) days of ratification.

Failure to nominate or confirm appointees for all vacancies existing on the date of ratification by the deadline shall impose specific conditions on the President and the Senate. In such an instance of failure, except for the conduct of military operations, operations pursuant to a declared state of emergency under the terms of this Charter, or the need to declare war, neither the President nor the Senate, nor any

Persons or bodies deputized by them, may carry out any business beyond the filling of these vacancies.

Judicial appointments made between the date of ratification and the first anniversary of that date are free from the requirement to draw upon the pool of candidates supplied by the Judicial Nomination Board, as those pools are not required to be available during the first year under this Charter.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_4). Transition to Charter Term Structure

Supreme Court Justices will be replaced one at a time each year at the beginning of the Judicial Year, starting with the longest-serving and continuing in descending order of length of service, until the Court matches the Charter's structure. After that, a new Justice will be appointed every two years, in years without Congressional elections. The Chief Justice at the time of ratification will remain in that role until their term expires, at which time the seniority rule established in Article IV, Section 3.A.2 shall prevail.

All other Federal Judges shall follow this term schedule for their current terms, after which, the standard term limits in Article IV shall apply:

- Groups 1 and 2 shall serve until September 30 following the sixth (6^{th}) anniversary of the ratification of this Charter.
- Group 3 shall serve until September 30 following the fourth (4^{th}) anniversary of the ratification of this Charter.

- Group 4 shall serve until September 30 following the second (2^{nd}) anniversary of the ratification of this Charter.
- Group 5 shall remain in office only until September 30 of the year following ratification of this Charter.

No judge serving under the prior Constitution may be reappointed to the same court.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_5). Judicial Nomination Board

The Judicial Nomination Board must be established within six months of ratification and convene immediately to create candidate lists for each court. Starting one year after ratification, all judicial vacancies must be filled in accordance with the process outlined in this Charter and the lists provided.

Since the Civic Lottery will not be in place at this time, for the first selection, the three civic members shall be selected as follows.

1. All fifty States shall be entered into a random lottery, and three States shall be selected.
2. Each State shall select one county or parish at random, which shall provide a Citizen to serve on the Judicial Nomination Board using the same means used to select jurors.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_6). Temporary Cross-Designation

Temporary cross-designation of judges to fill unfilled seats shall be permitted during the transition period, in accordance with the Charter's rules.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_7). Assumption of Charter Obligations

Federal Judges and Supreme Court Justices serving at the time of ratification may have ten (10) days following ratification to declare either resignation or their intent to continue serving until their terms end. By choosing to remain in office, they are understood to have accepted the duties and obligations of this Charter, as if they had taken the required Oath.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_8). Migration of Immigration & Tax Courts

On the first day of the Judicial Year in the second year following ratification, all immigration judges will transition from belonging to the Executive Branch to belonging to the Judicial Branch. At that time, all Immigration and Tax Courts will be considered Judicial, rather than administrative. Immigration and Tax Judges in current service are presumed to be qualified.

Immediately upon ratification, in the period before transition to the Judicial Branch, the Due Process protections and all Rights afforded by this Charter must apply to Immigration and Tax courts. Cases in progress at the time of ratification must similarly conform to the Charter's Rights and Due Process requirements, even if doing so results in mistrial, nullification, or administrative burden.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_9). Alignment of Immigration & Tax Courts

District, Immigration, and Tax Courts shall be co-assigned to congressional Districts at the beginning of the first numbered Congress following the first redistricting. Until that time, Immigration courts shall operate in the same venues and jurisdictions as they did under the Executive Branch, but shall belong to the Judicial Branch.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_{10}). Abolition of the Court of Federal Claims.

Beginning the day after ratification of this Charter, new claims against the government that the Court of Federal Claims would have heard must be filed and argued in Federal District Court.

Claimants with ongoing cases before the Court of Federal Claims must be presumed to continue their cases in that venue, which shall finish out the cases before it. However, at their sole discretion, claimants before the Court of Federal Claims at the time of ratification may elect to move their case to District Court. Doing so is irrevocable.

Once all outstanding cases have been resolved or migrated to District Courts, the Court of Federal Claims shall be extinct.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_{11}). Federal Licensing Authority

The Federal Licensing Authority must be convened no later than one hundred eighty (180) days following ratification of the Charter. The four non-judicial members of

the governing board shall, for the inception of the board only, be nominated by the American Bar Association. Each member shall draw a lot. The lots shall be numbered 1 through 4. The board member will serve until the end of the Judicial Year, plus a number of years equal to the number on their drawn lot.

All replacements of governing board members shall follow the processes mandated in Article IV, Section 6.B.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_{12}). Inception of Provincial Appellate Courts

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court must establish budgeting and infrastructure for the Provincial Courts by the end of August in the first full Judicial Year this Charter is in effect. The President must appoint judges for the Provincial Courts by that date, who will assume office on the first day of the second Judicial Year following ratification.

The President need not rely on a list of preselected candidates for initial Provincial Court appointments. Subsequent appointments will require the use of the candidate pool provided by the Judicial Nomination Board.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(c_{13}). Institution of the Judicial Enforcement Service

Immediately following ratification, the United States Marshals shall detach five Deputy Marshals for each federal judicial district to serve as a Provisional Judicial Enforcement Service. The Executive Branch shall pay these Marshals, but they shall

be under the exclusive operational control of the District Court to which they are assigned.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court must request a budget for the permanent Judicial Enforcement Service along with the next submitted Judicial Budget. The section of the Judicial Budget covering the first-year budget for the Judicial Enforcement Service cannot be rejected by Congress. However, for the first budget, and only for the first budget under this Charter, the Judicial Enforcement Service budget may be severed from the rest of the Judiciary.

The Chief Justice must also submit their nomination for the Director of the Judicial Enforcement Service no later than June 30 of the year following ratification. Upon taking office, the Director assumes exclusive operational control of the detached Marshals.

The President must also make their nomination for the Inspector General by the same date.

Beginning on the first day of October in the year following ratification of this Charter, the Judicial Enforcement Service shall be considered to exist. The Director shall hire, or cause to be hired, the employees necessary to staff the Judicial Enforcement Service. At such time as the Director deems appropriate, but no later than one full year after the JES is considered active, the Director shall release the Marshals that are temporarily detached to the Judicial Branch. These Marshals need

not be released at the same time, but none may be retained beyond September 30 of the Judicial Year following ratification.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(d). General Compensation

The salaries mandated by this Charter shall take permanent effect upon the first assumption or resumption of Office following Ratification. Until the next decennial census, the PINC-01 Personal Data tables for the most recent decennial census year shall be used to calculate income percentiles.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(e). Budgetary and Debt-Reduction Transition Plan

Debt and spending will transition to the Charter's requirements in accordance with the following scheme.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(e_1). Preparation for Phase I.

Within one hundred eighty (180) days of ratification of this Charter, the Congressional Budget Office will establish a baseline number that expresses the federal budget deficit at that time. This figure will be called the "Deficit Baseline." This figure must be made widely available to Congress and to the American People. This will be communicated electronically, through radio advertisements, and via social media, because the American People must know exactly the state of the national finances.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(e_2). Phase I Budgeting.

During the second through sixth fiscal years after ratification, Congress may ignore the deficit reduction requirements of Article II. Instead, each year, Congress must pass a budget that reduces the deficit by one-fifth ($^1/_5$) of the Deficit Baseline. Emergency spending is authorized in accordance with the definitions and limitations of Article II. Any year with authorized emergency spending is considered an inactive year, and the deficit-reduction deadline is extended by one year.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(e_3). Preparation for Phase II

In the sixth active year, no later than June 30, the CBO will also establish a separate baseline number that expresses the federal debt to gross domestic product (GDP) at that time. That figure will be called the "Debt Reduction Baseline." A third figure, called the "Reduction Target," will be calculated by subtracting sixty (60) percent from the Debt Reduction Baseline, and dividing the difference by twenty-five (25). These figures must be made widely available to Congress and to the American People. As with the Deficit Baseline, they will be communicated electronically, through radio advertisements, and via social media.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(e_4). Phase II Budgeting.

Beginning in the seventh active year after ratification, Congress will begin following the budgeting scheme outlined in Article II, Section 4.C.1.

From the seventh to the thirty-first active year after ratification, Congress must budget so that the percentage of debt to GDP is reduced by the Debt Reduction Target.

Each year that Congress must enact emergency spending under Article II, the deadline for completing this debt reduction is extended by one year. The total number of years of debt reduction under Phase II will be twenty-five (25) years of active reduction, not counting any interruptions due to emergency spending.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(e_5). Finalization.

At the end of the twenty-fifth year of active debt reduction under this transition, Congress will transition to acting solely within the parameters of Article II, Section 4.C of this Charter.

Article VII, Section 3.B.2(f). Intellectual Property Rights

Copyrights, Patents, and Trademarks held at the time of ratification shall be governed and legally adjudicated according to the laws in place at the time of their registration or effect, except that Patents and Copyrights shall only extend to the original work, as outlined in Article II, Section 4.K. Refinements already protected remain so, but no new refinements may be protected on existing works.

All Copyrights, Patents, and Trademarks registered or beginning in effect after the date of ratification are governed fully by the provisions of this Charter.

Article VII, Section 3.C. Election Transitions

Article VII, Section 3.C.1. Transition to Reformed Federal Elections Commission

Article VII, Section 3.C.1. Appointment of the Commissioner of Federal Elections

Article VII, Section 3.C.1(a_1). Identification of Candidates

On the day following the ratification of this Charter, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives must meet with the Vice President. Together, these three individuals must create a list of ten candidates for nomination to the office of Commissioner of Federal Elections.

None of these three Officers may perform any other work until their list is submitted to a joint Congress, which must vote on each candidate independently.

The only exceptions to that limitation are emergency provisions to enact a Declaration of War in accordance with Article II, Section 4.H, or to attend a Use of Force Advisory Council convened by the President in accordance with Article III, Section 2.A.1, or to concur with a Presidential Declaration of Emergency in accordance with Article III, Section 4.D.

A simple majority by the joint Congress shall be sufficient to authorize any individual as a prospective appointee.

Article VII, Section 3.C.1(a_2). Appointment

Once the list of candidates has been voted upon and at least five individuals are on the list of available choices, the President must nominate one of the named individuals within twenty (20) days. For the appointment of the first Commissioner of Federal Elections only, no confirmation is required.

Article VII, Section 3.C.1(a_3). Interim Maintenance of Candidate Pool

If the list of available candidates should number fewer than five individuals at any time between ratification and the commencement of the next numbered Congress, this process shall repeat. Once the next numbered Congress is convened, the appointment process in Article VI, Section 1.D.3(a2) shall prevail, and this clause shall be permanently inoperative at that point.

Article VII, Section 3.C.1(b). Appointment of the Vice Commissioners

Immediately upon taking Office, the first Commissioner of Federal Elections shall have sixty (60) days to submit their nominees for each of the Vice Commissioners required under Article VI, Section 1.D.3(b). Except for the extended timeline granted to the Commissioner for making only these initial nominations, all other mechanisms detailed in that subclause prevail.

Article VII, Section 3.C.1(c). Supplemental Funding

Congress must pass a supplemental funding bill, which is not subject to veto or remand, in the first sixty days following confirmation of the Commissioner. It must, at a minimum,

provide funding to pay the salaries and operational costs of the Commissioner and Vice Commissioners until the next regular budget bill, which then must provide funding for a fully staffed and operational Commission.

Article VII, Section 3.C.1(d). Assumption of Authority

The Federal Elections Commission shall immediately begin developing and administering the Civic Lottery system upon confirmation of the Vice Commissioners. It must be operational by the third anniversary of ratification and must be fully linked to the National Identification Number system by the fifth anniversary of ratification.

In all other matters, the new Federal Elections Commission shall assume the operational authority vested in it by this Charter on the first day following the first federal election after ratification, replacing the existing eponymous Commission at that time.

Article VII, Section 3.C.2. Conduct of Elections

The Electoral College is immediately abolished upon ratification of this charter. The President and Vice President must be elected directly by the Citizens, beginning in the next Presidential Election.

The Vice President will be elected separately, starting with the first Presidential election after ratification.

Otherwise, there shall be no changes to the election structure in the first Federal Election following ratification. Acceptance voting, declaration of candidacy, campaign season, and the elimination of nominating contests shall begin during the second Federal Election

following ratification. Automatic voter registration shall begin on or before the fifth anniversary of ratification, and local election jurisdictions shall continue to administer registration until that time.

Article VII, Section 3.D. Emergency Failovers

If a designated Branch or Officer fails to carry out a Charter-mandated transition action by the required date, and no alternative is provided elsewhere in this Charter, the following principles apply.

Article VII, Section 3.D.1. Failure to Convene an Appointing Body or Confirm a Constitutional Officer

If the authority named in this Charter fails to convene an Appointing Body, the Supreme Court must appoint a temporary replacement or an Appointing Body from qualified candidates. If the Senate refuses to consider a nominee for a constitutional Office required by this Charter within thirty days of nomination, the Chief Justice must declare in writing a ten (10) day final period. At the end of ten days, if there has still been no vote on confirmation, the nominee is confirmed. This provision shall only affect initial appointments to Offices mandated by this Charter, or initial selection of Appointing Bodies, until the proper authority affirms or supersedes the Supreme Court's choice. Subsequent appointments must follow the normal processes mandated elsewhere in this Charter.

Article VII, Section 3.D.2. Failure to Enact Implementing Statutes

If Congress fails to enact any implementing Statute, all members of Congress immediately become ineligible to run for federal office upon expiration of their term, unless the failure is remedied before the then-current Congress concludes. Seven Citizens from the national capital shall be randomly selected the day after the implementation deadline to write and implement an interim statute, not subject to Presidential veto or remand. Congress may repeal any such interim law, but only upon presentation of a duly enacted and signed replacement statute. Such a replacement must take care to respect as much as possible the interim law's intent to avoid unnecessary implementation delays.

Article VII, Section 3.D.3. Failure to Organize New Institutions

Whenever any authority designated in this Charter fails to organize a new institution mandated by this Charter by its implementation deadline, the Chief Justice must appoint an interim administrative officer to organize the new institution until full compliance is achieved or the designated authority acts. If the Chief Justice is the authority who failed to act, the next most senior Associate Justice shall act in their stead.

Article VII, Section 3.D.4. Provisional in Duration and Effect

These failover provisions are strictly temporary and expire upon lawful institutional compliance. Their invocation shall not create binding precedent going forward.

GLOSSARY AND USAGES

The average Citizen of the United States must be able to understand this Charter. Certain terms must be clarified to remove doubt about their meaning. These definitions shall serve as the legal definitions in this Charter, and this Glossary and its Usages are to be considered an integral and inseparable part of the Charter.

Charter, Constitution, and Constitutional

In this document, "Charter" refers to the text you are reading now. "Constitution" refers to the United States Constitution ratified in 1789. The term "Constitutional" refers to whatever body of law is, at the relevant time, the supreme governing document of the United States—either the 1789 Constitution or this Charter, if and when it is ratified.

Will, Shall, or Must

In this Charter, the terms "will" and "shall" carry equal weight and impose legal obligation. The term "must" carries greater urgency and immediate necessity. For example: If my car needs an oil change and has a flat tire, I "will" or "shall" get an oil change soon, but I "must" change the tire before I can drive it.

Glossary

Acceptance Voting

A voting method where voters can vote for any number of candidates they find acceptable, including none or all. Each candidate voted for receives one vote from that ballot. The candidate who receives the most total votes wins.

Administrative Law

Rules, procedures, and decisions created by government agencies under authority granted by Congress or the Charter. It does not carry the same legal weight as constitutional law or statutes enacted by Congress.

Animus

Hostility, bias, or discriminatory intent toward a particular person or group, whether expressed openly or embedded in laws, policies, or institutional practices.

Armistice

A military agreement for the cessation of hostilities between nations, non-state actors, or a combination. It is not as binding as a treaty.

Bill of Attainder

A law that declares a specific person or group guilty of a crime and imposes punishment without a trial.

Campaign

The collection of efforts, not including the individual votes of citizens, designed to influence the outcome of an election. It includes messaging, advertising, organizing, spending, and the deployment of resources.

Campaign Donations

Financial consideration, materials, property, or infrastructure provided for the purpose of conducting a Campaign.

Campaign Organization

1. An association led by a Candidate or their appointed Campaign Manager for the purpose of conducting and coordinating a campaign for public office.
2. The Association responsible for submitting a petition for amendment or the body specified for submitting a referendum.

Candidate

A citizen running in an election for an office of trust.

Cease-Fire

An immediate and temporary halt to active hostilities, typically ordered to allow humanitarian relief, prevent escalation, or create space for negotiation.

Censure

A formal statement of disapproval issued by an official body, without removing the person from office.

Civic Duty

Any of the mandatory forms of service that Citizens must perform to keep the Republic functioning.

Civic Lottery

A random-selection process used to assign Citizens to perform specific Civic Duties.

Civic Rights

The exclusive Rights of Citizens, which derive from the citizens' unique relationship to the government.

Civil Rights

Legal protections established by the Charter to safeguard the Natural Rights of all Persons and ensure equal treatment under the law.

Community of Interest

A population sharing significant social, cultural, economic, or historical characteristics, whose integrity should be preserved when drawing electoral districts.

Consent of the Governed

The principle that the government derives its legitimacy and authority from the voluntary agreement of the People, expressed through mechanisms such as elections, referendums, and reaffirmation of the Charter.

Declaratory Relief

A court judgment that defines the legal rights or status of parties without ordering any specific action or awarding damages.

Derogable

A characteristic of a right that means it can be denied, compromised, or removed.

Due Process

The legal requirement that the government must respect all rights owed to a Person under the law, including fair procedures, notice, and an opportunity to be heard before any deprivation of life, liberty, or property.

En Banc

Describes a session in which all the judges on a particular court hear a case together, rather than a smaller panel or individual judge. For example, the Supreme Court usually hears oral arguments *en banc*, while lower courts may only do so for especially important or complex matters.

Excusal

The act or instance of excusing. In this Charter, it refers to a formal recognition that a Citizen is excused from Civic Duty.

Executive Authority

The power to direct an agency, officer, or employee of the United States; to obligate federal funds as authorized by Congress; to implement or enforce law within the federal government; to supervise federal operations; or to exercise powers delegated by statute.

Executive Order(s)

Executive orders are directives issued by the President to carry out or administer the laws of the United States. They are valid only when grounded in statutory or constitutional

authority. Executive Orders are legally binding but of relatively low weight compared to other laws.

Funding Period

The Funding Period is the defined period of time during which Campaign Donations may be solicited and received.

Habeas Corpus

The right of a Person to challenge their detention before a court and demand justification for their imprisonment. Under this Charter, *habeas corpus* is absolute and inviolate.

Imminent Harm

A harm is considered imminent if it meets two conditions: 1) the behavior that causes the harm is reasonably foreseeable and likely, and 2) it's expected to happen in the immediate or near future.

Implied Powers

Powers not expressly stated in this Charter but reasonably necessary to carry out those that are. These powers may not be used to suppress or discourage the exercise of any enumerated Right.

In Rem Jurisdiction

Legal authority exercised over property itself rather than a person; this Charter prohibits in rem jurisdiction, requiring all legal actions to be directed at persons, not objects.

Injunction/Injunctive Relief

An injunction is a court order that requires a person or entity to do or refrain from doing a specific act to prevent harm or enforce legal rights. Injunctive relief is the legal remedy in which a court issues an injunction to prevent harm, enforce rights, or maintain the status quo.

Natural Rights

Fundamental rights that belong to all human beings by virtue of their humanity. They exist independently of any government and are the foundation of all legitimate law.

Persons

All human beings recognized under this Charter as holders of Natural and Civil Rights, regardless of age, nationality, or citizenship status.

Plenary

With respect to the powers of an official or body, plenary means they are unqualified, absolute, or entirely self-contained.

Presidential Officers

Officers who exercise Executive Authority delegated to them by the President and are not supervised by any Officer other than the President.

Probable Cause

A reasonable and factual basis to believe that a crime has been, is being, or will be committed, required for the issuance of a judicial warrant or other government action affecting Rights.

Prospective Harm

Harm that could be caused by conduct that is: 1) authorized, planned, or reasonably foreseeable under existing law, policy, or practice, and 2) the claimant or class faces a realistic possibility of being subjected to the harm, which could occur under the ordinary operation of the law or policy in question.

Public Advocacy

Speech or activity intended to influence public opinion, policy, or elections. Under this Charter, public advocacy during election periods is subject to rules that protect fairness, including restrictions on negative campaigning within specified timeframes.

Ratify, Ratification

For this Charter, these words refer to the formal adoption of law by an authorizing body like the Senate (for treaties) or the People for the Charter, itself.

Real Harm

A real harm is one that has occurred or is ongoing.

Recognition (of Foreign Governments or Organizations)

The formal acknowledgement by the President of another government or organization as having legitimate, legal authority. Under this Charter, a meeting between the President and representatives of a government or non-state organization does not confer recognition, and the President is required to state whether recognition is being extended explicitly.

Recusal

The required act of a judge or official withdrawing from a case or matter due to a conflict of interest or the appearance of bias.

Referendum

A direct vote by Citizens to decide a specific issue, policy, or constitutional question. Under this Charter, referendums are binding.

Remand

1) The act of the President returning a bill to Congress with written recommendations for revision, rather than issuing a veto.

2) A court's order sending a case back to a lower court or agency for further action or correction per the higher court's ruling.

Republic

A system in which the People hold Sovereign power and govern through accountable institutions under a fixed Charter of Rights. The American Republic is a form of democracy—structured to limit power, protect Rights, and ensure that all authority derives from the consent of the governed. Claims that the American Republic is not a democracy are incorrect; it is an indirect constitutional democracy in which the People are the ultimate source of lawful authority.

Sovereign/Sovereignty

The ultimate authority to govern, which under this Charter resides with the People. Citizens are the Sovereign source of all governmental power, and no institution may claim legitimacy except through their consent.

Speculative Harm

Speculative harm is harm that hasn't occurred and is only hypothetical in nature. Any harm that doesn't meet the definitions of real, imminent, or prospective harm is speculative.

Standing

The right to bring a legal claim in court. Under this Charter, any Person has standing if they have suffered harm, face a credible threat of harm, or if their Rights are being limited. Citizens may also bring claims in the public interest when the court has the power to grant relief.

Subordinate Officers

Officers who exercise Executive Authority on behalf of a Presidential Officer or Ambassador who is their direct supervisor.

Sua Sponte

A Latin term meaning “on its own motion” or “of its own accord.” It refers to actions a court takes without either party asking.

Treaty

A formal and binding agreement between the United States and a foreign government or entity, negotiated by the President and requiring approval by two-thirds of the Senate.

Truce

A mutually agreed pause in hostilities between opposing parties, typically with specific terms or objectives. A truce is more structured and deliberate than a cease-fire, often reflecting a coordinated effort to de-escalate or negotiate.

Tribunal

A temporary panel of judges or other officials convened to hear and decide specific matters, such as ethical or professional complaints against a Federal Judge, as defined by this Charter.

Unitary

Possessed of the undivided or whole character of some type of unit. In this case, it is most often encountered in the context of unitary executive theory, which holds that all executive power belongs to a single individual (the President), making all other officials subordinate to that person.

Veto

The President's formal rejection of a bill passed by Congress, preventing it from becoming law unless overridden by a three-fifths vote in each chamber.

Undefined Terms

Any undefined term in this Charter must be interpreted in light of its ordinary public meaning, consistent with the Charter's purpose of securing liberty, equality, and lawful government by consent of the People.